



FRONTLINE™

A MARVEL COMICS® EVENT

CIVIL WAR™

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CIVIL WAR FRONT LINE #001

70 YEARS OF MARVEL COMICS

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70 YEARS
MARVEL
COMICS

CALVARY CEMETERY, QUEENS





MAYBE A CUT ABOVE, I DON'T KNOW. ALL I KNOW IS THAT THE LAST TIME I SAW JOHNNY WAS EIGHT DAYS AGO, COMING OUT THE BACK OF O'FLANAGAN'S, MAYBE ABOUT NINE OR TEN AT NIGHT.

HE WAS PRETTY GIDDY. KNOWING HIM, THAT WAS PROBABLY DUE TO THE GUINNESS. HE TOLD ME HE'D JUST GOTTEN FULL-TIME WORK WITH THE NEW WARRIORS REALITY SHOW.

I WISHED HIM LUCK AND TOLD HIM TO BE CAREFUL.

"JOHNNY HAD BEEN ON AT LEAST FOUR TOURS OF BOSNIA, THREE TO AFGHANISTAN AND MAYBE EIGHT OR NINE TO BAGHDAD WITH CNN.

"LAST YEAR, HE WON AN EMMY NOMINATION FOR HIS BIT ON THE U.S.S. ABRAHAM LINCOLN. AND FROM THERE, HE GRADUATED TO THIS ASSIGNMENT. THIS WAS HIS BIG BREAK.

"HE USED TO SAY ALL THE TIMES HE'D BEEN BOMBED OR SHOT AT WERE JUST PRACTICE RUNS FOR THE REAL THING.

"BUT HE ALWAYS WAS CAREFUL. AND HE ALWAYS FIGURED HE'D SEE IT COMING.

BOOM!!!



"THE TRUTH IS, YOU NEVER SEE IT COMING."



...HOW'S THE WRIST HEALING?

BETTER THAN THE RIBS. IT'S LIKE THEY NEVER GO AWAY.

OH, YEAH... I BROKE A COUPLE ONCE: YOU MOAN ABOUT THEM FOR, LIKE, A YEAR...YOU NEVER SLEEP RIGHT. AND SUDDENLY, YOU WAKE UP ONE DAY AND REALIZE THE PAIN WENT AWAY.

I'M STILL WAITING. HOW'S WORK?

WORSE THAN BROKEN RIBS.



FORGET YOUR UMBRELLA?

DON'T OWN ONE. I LIKE GETTING WET.

MM-HMM... THAT'S PRETTY TYPICAL. STILL GOING TO YOUR AA MEETINGS?

OH, GOD... YOU SOUND LIKE NEIL. HAVEN'T YOU NOTICED I'M DRINKING COKE?



I CAN NEVER TELL WITH YOU, SALLY. YOU DON'T NEED BOOZE TO BE MORBID.

GOD, YOU GOTTA LOVE THIS, THOUGH, DON'T YOU? THE ONLY TIME WE EVER GET TOGETHER LIKE THIS IS WHEN SOMEONE DIES.

AT LEAST WE GOT TO WEAR FUNNY HATS. JOHNNY FERNANDEZ WOULD'VE LIKED THAT.



YOU KNOW THIS THING WITH THE SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT IS GOING TO HAPPEN, DON'T YOU?



I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT JUST YET, BEN. BUT I DON'T THINK ANYONE AT THE WHITE HOUSE COULD HAVE SCRIPTED THIS NITRO THING ANY BETTER.

A SCHOOL FULL OF KIDS WIPED OUT IN A PUNCH-UP INVOLVING UNTRAINED, UNSUPERVISED, UNDERAGED SUPER HEROES.

HOW'S JONAH TAKING IT?

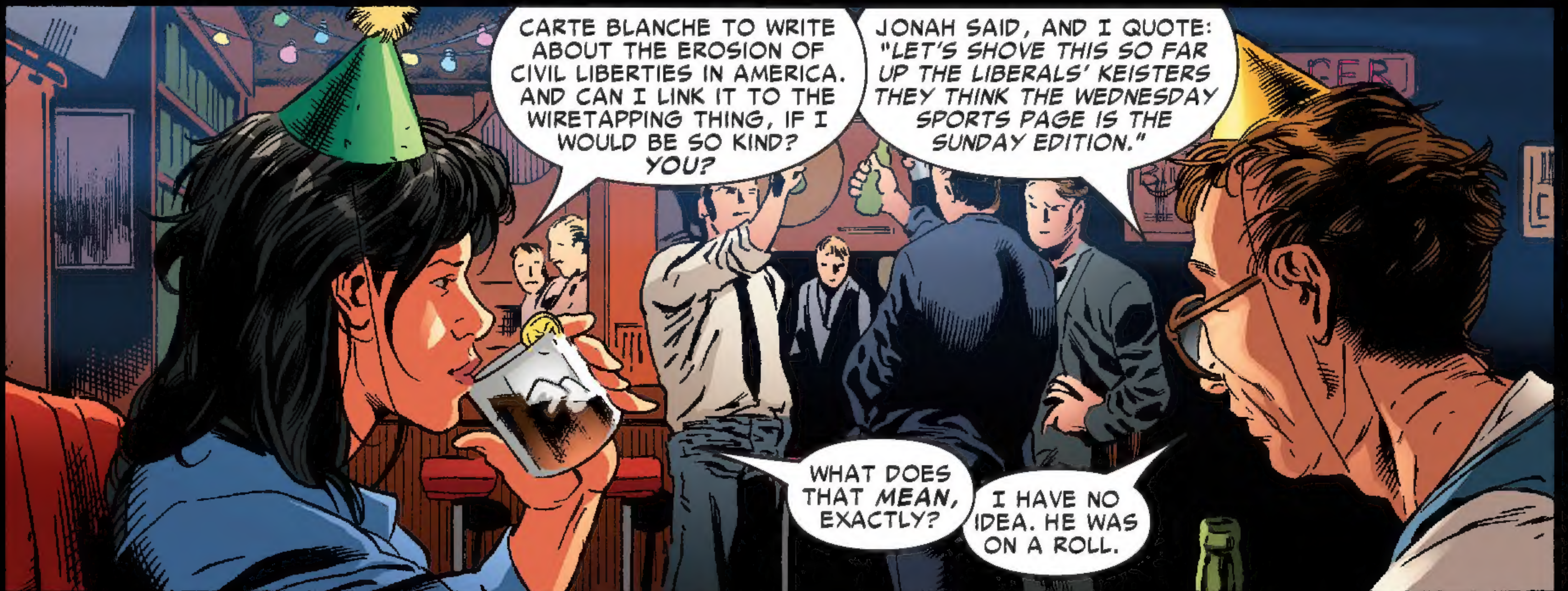
LIKE HE WON THE LOTTERY.



OH, GOD...I CAN JUST IMAGINE: "LAYDEEZ AND GENTLEMEN...IN THE RED CORNER, THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION.

"IN THE BLUE CORNER, THE UNSTOPPABLE TAG-TEAM OF DISINFORMATION AND PARANOIA, WINNER BY TWO FALLS AND A SUBMISSION."

HEHH...THAT'S THE BUGLE, ALL RIGHT. WHAT DID THEY GIVE YOU AT THE ALTERNATIVE?



CARTE BLANCHE TO WRITE ABOUT THE EROSION OF CIVIL LIBERTIES IN AMERICA. AND CAN I LINK IT TO THE WIRETAPPING THING, IF I WOULD BE SO KIND? YOU?

JONAH SAID, AND I QUOTE: "LET'S SHOVE THIS SO FAR UP THE LIBERALS' KEISTERS THEY THINK THE WEDNESDAY SPORTS PAGE IS THE SUNDAY EDITION."

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN, EXACTLY?

I HAVE NO IDEA. HE WAS ON A ROLL.



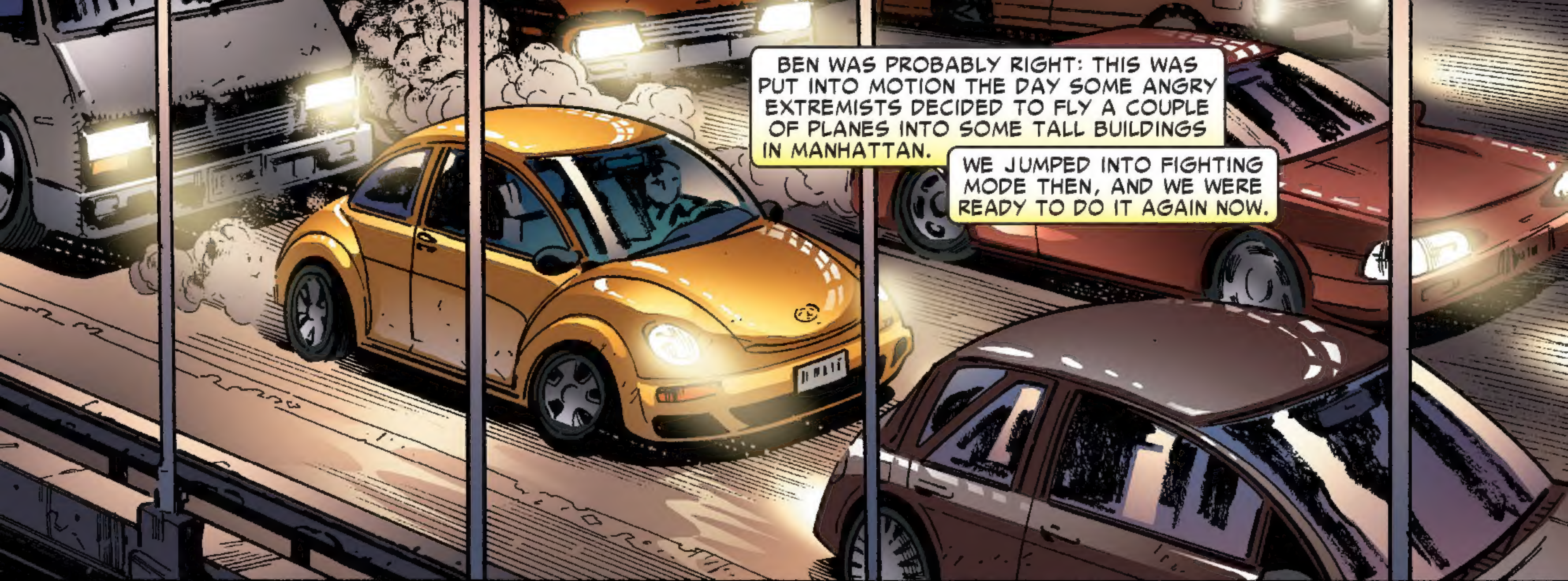
WELL, THEN...TO BATTLE, AND MAY THE BEST HACK WIN. I LIKE MY CHANCES. NO ONE WANTS THE GOVERNMENT TO INSTITUTE A DRAFT.

THIS IS DIFFERENT, SALLY-- JUST FOR A CHANGE, I THINK JONAH MAY BE RIGHT.



THE TIMING IS PERFECT TO PUSH FOR SUPER-HERO FEDERALIZATION. THIS REGISTRATION ACT IS GOING TO MEET LITTLE OR NO OPPOSITION AFTER THE DISASTER IN STAMFORD.

IF IT PASSES, EVERYTHING CHANGES.



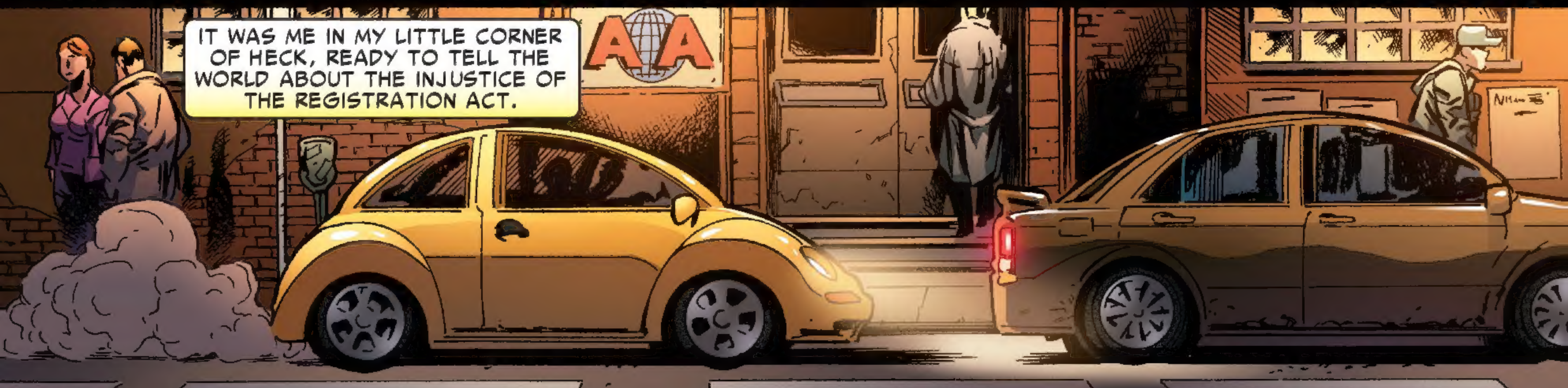
BEN WAS PROBABLY RIGHT: THIS WAS PUT INTO MOTION THE DAY SOME ANGRY EXTREMISTS DECIDED TO FLY A COUPLE OF PLANES INTO SOME TALL BUILDINGS IN MANHATTAN.

WE JUMPED INTO FIGHTING MODE THEN, AND WE WERE READY TO DO IT AGAIN NOW.



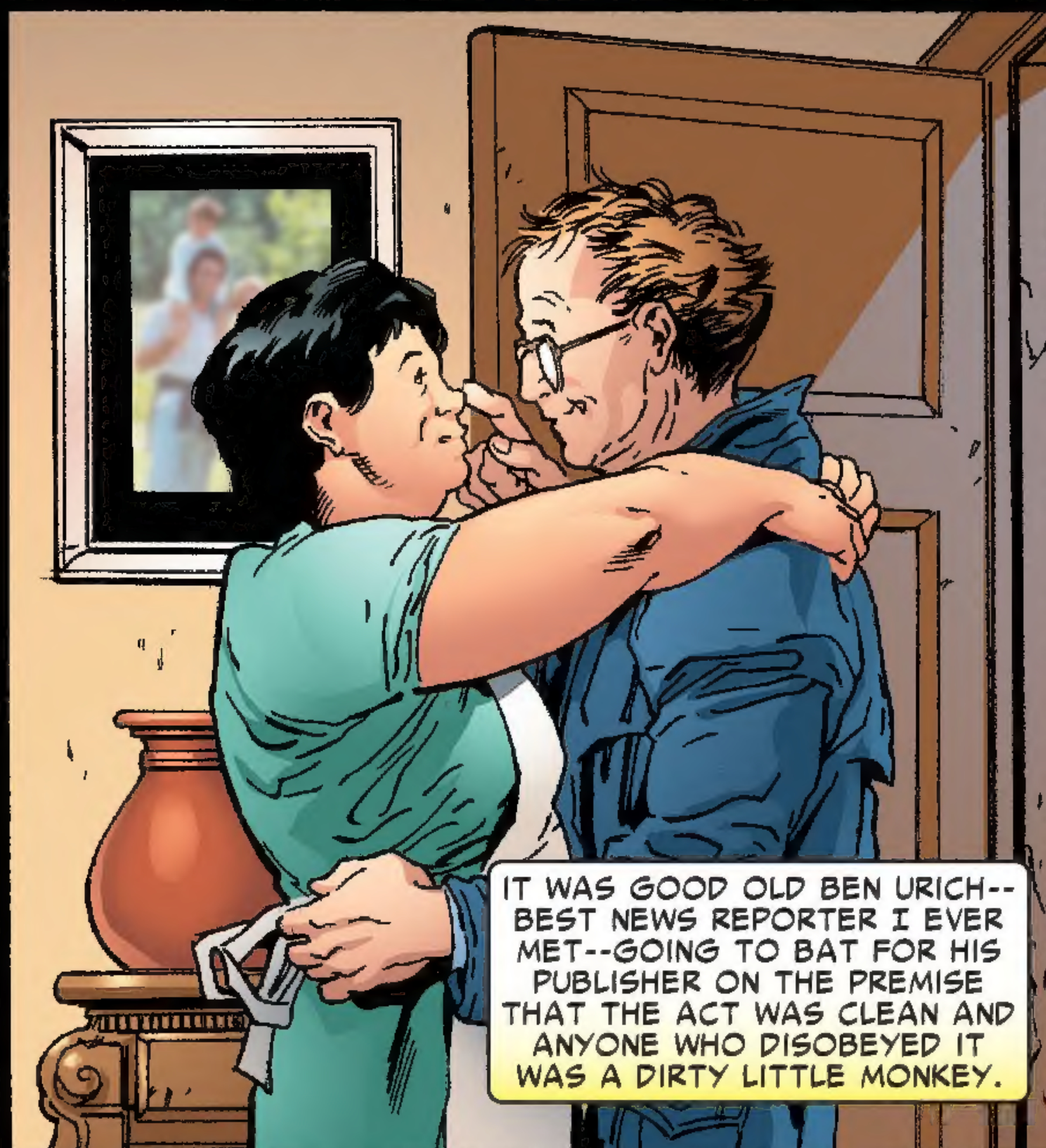
ALL OF A SUDDEN, JOURNALISM WAS GOING TO TAKE A BACKSEAT TO JINGOISM, AND THE FIGHT FOR A NATION'S SENTIMENT WOULD BE ON.

THIS WAS CIVIL LIBERTY VERSUS CIVIL COMFORT; WIRETAPPING VERSUS TERRORISM; FOX VERSUS CNN.

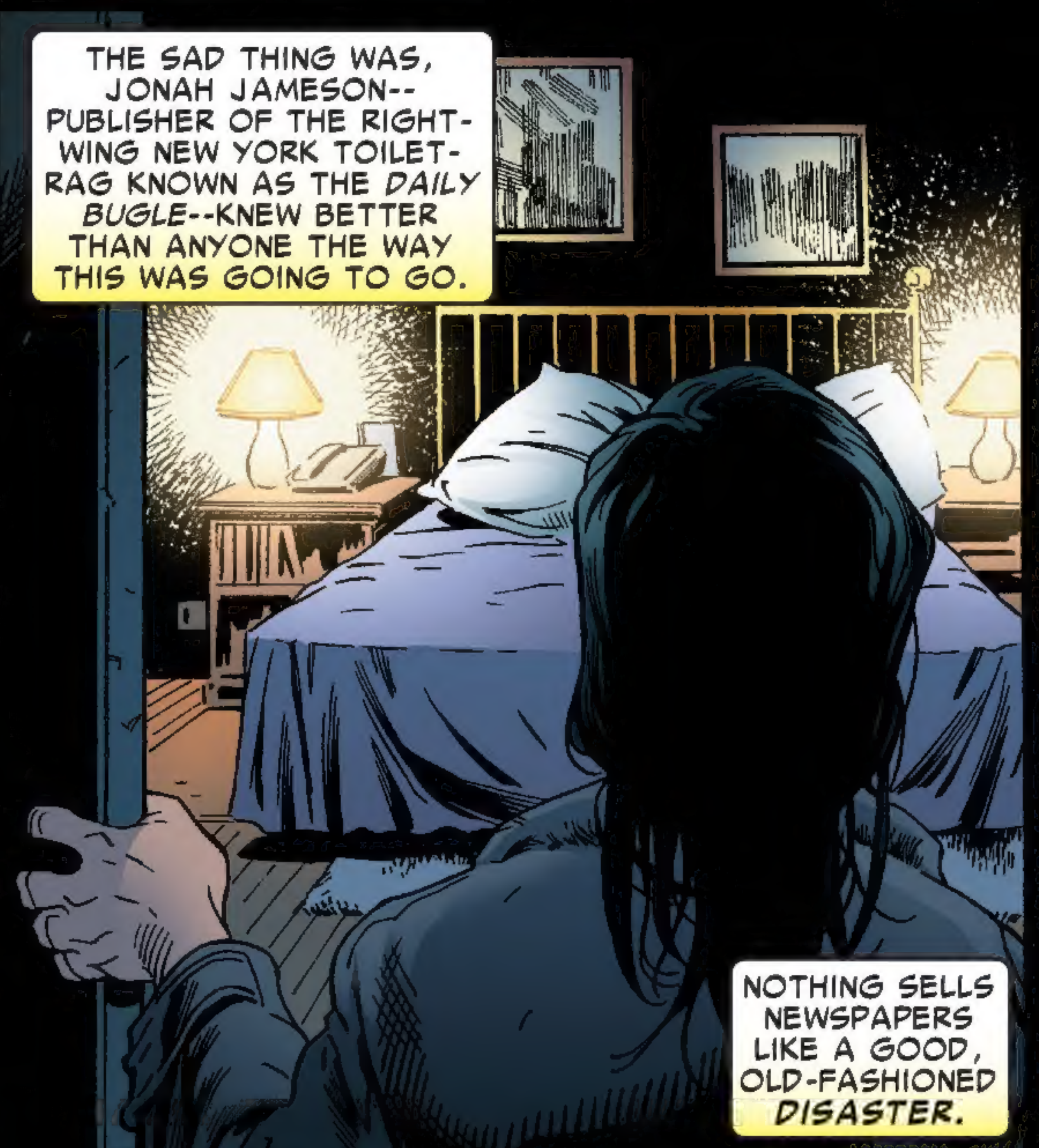


IT WAS ME IN MY LITTLE CORNER OF HECK, READY TO TELL THE WORLD ABOUT THE INJUSTICE OF THE REGISTRATION ACT.

AA



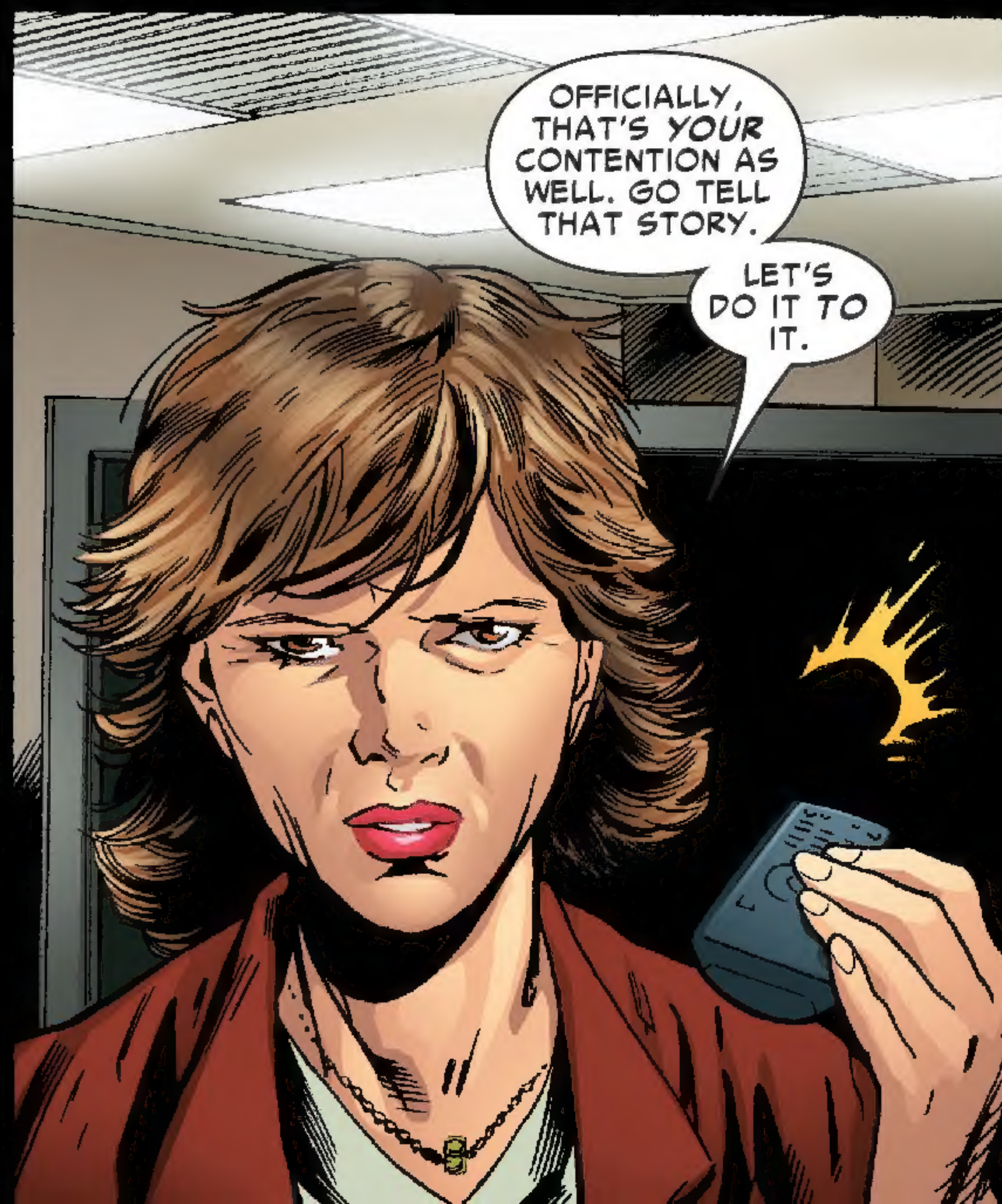
IT WAS GOOD OLD BEN URICH--BEST NEWS REPORTER I EVER MET--GOING TO BAT FOR HIS PUBLISHER ON THE PREMISE THAT THE ACT WAS CLEAN AND ANYONE WHO DISOBEYED IT WAS A DIRTY LITTLE MONKEY.



THE SAD THING WAS, JONAH JAMESON--PUBLISHER OF THE RIGHT-WING NEW YORK TOILET-RAG KNOWN AS THE DAILY BUGLE--KNEW BETTER THAN ANYONE THE WAY THIS WAS GOING TO GO.

NOTHING SELLS NEWSPAPERS LIKE A GOOD, OLD-FASHIONED DISASTER.

THE DAILY BUGLE NEWSROOM, ASSIGNMENTS MEETING.





SOMETHING TROUBLING YOU, BEN?

IT'S THAT DEMENTED TRUDGE YOU DO SO WELL.
THAT OBVIOUS, ROBBY?

MY ESTEEMED LINE EDITOR IS DRIVING ME CRAZY. I KEEP TELLING HER WE'RE MISSING THE STORY HERE. EVERYTHING'S ABOUT THE EXPLOSION BUT NOTHING'S ABOUT THE "WHY."



SHE SAYS JONAH WANTS TO SET UP SUPPORT FOR THIS REGISTRATION ACT THEY'RE PUTTING THROUGH CONGRESS. AND THEN SHE SENDS ME TO A FREAKIN' IRON MAN PRESS CONFERENCE.



AND BESIDES...WHO SAYS, "LET'S DO IT TO IT"? SHE'S A MANAGING EDITOR, NOT A DESK SERGEANT.

BEN, THIS IS JONAH'S THING: HE'S A SMART COOKIE. HE KNOWS WHAT WORKS HERE.

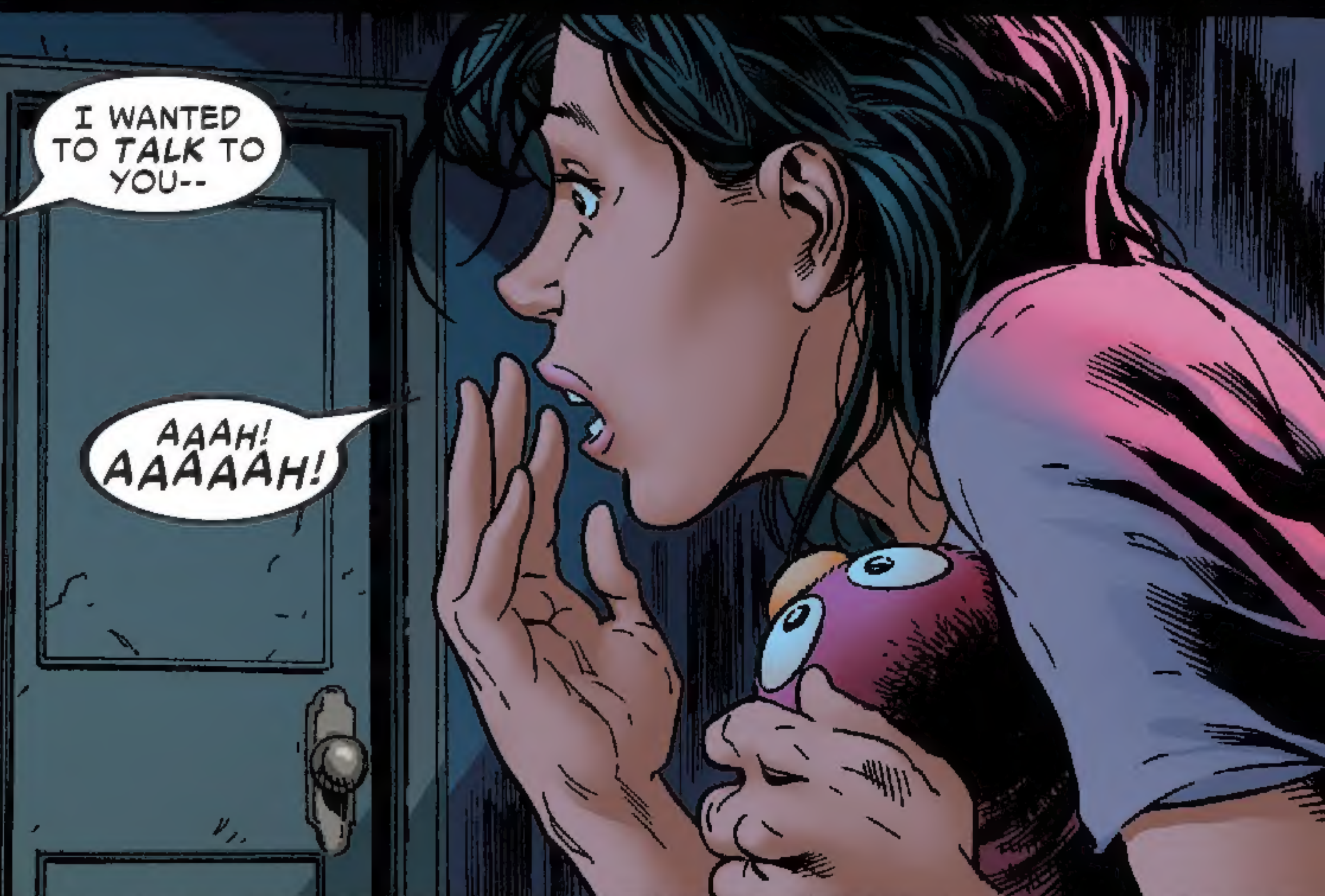
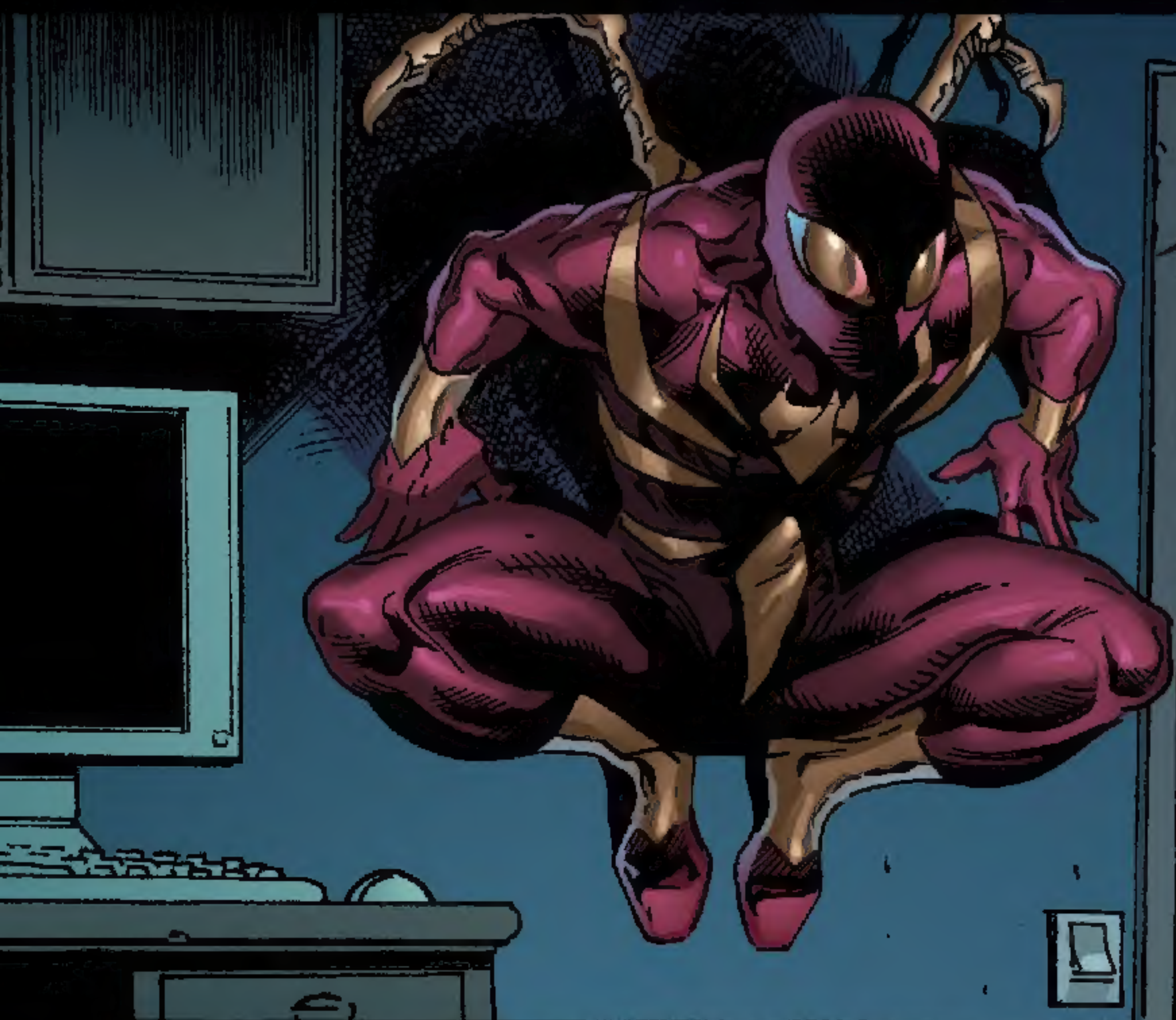
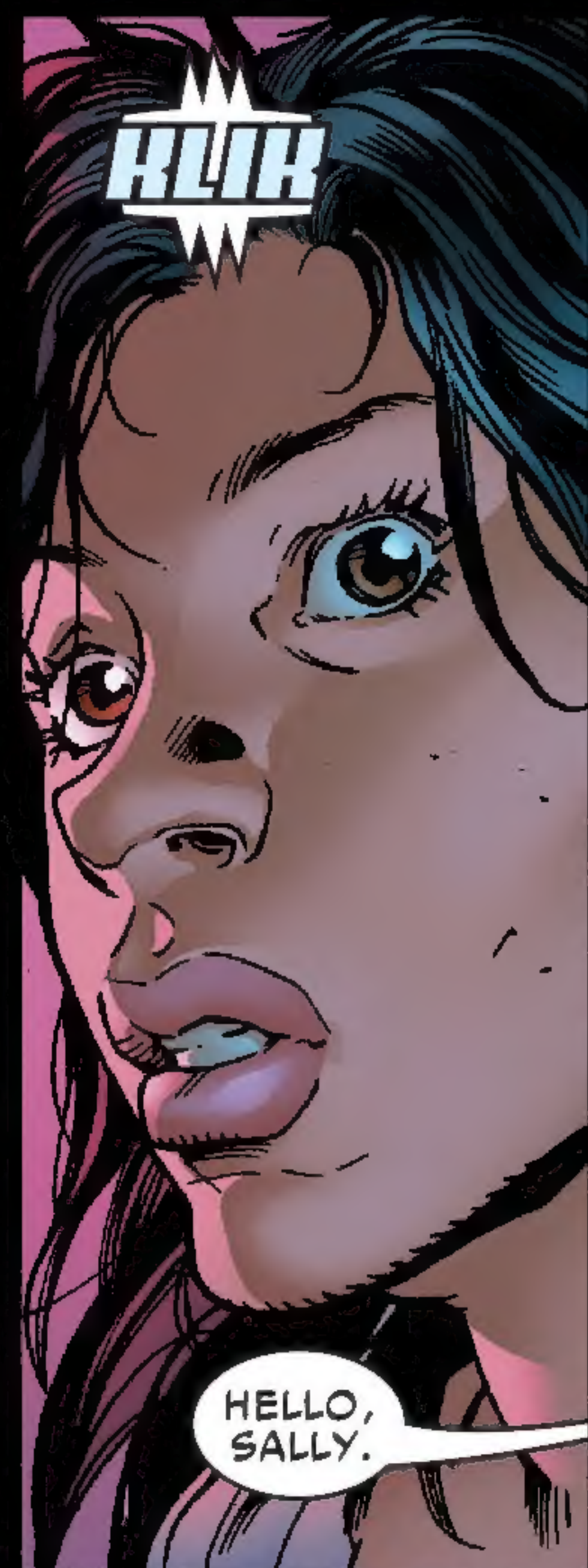
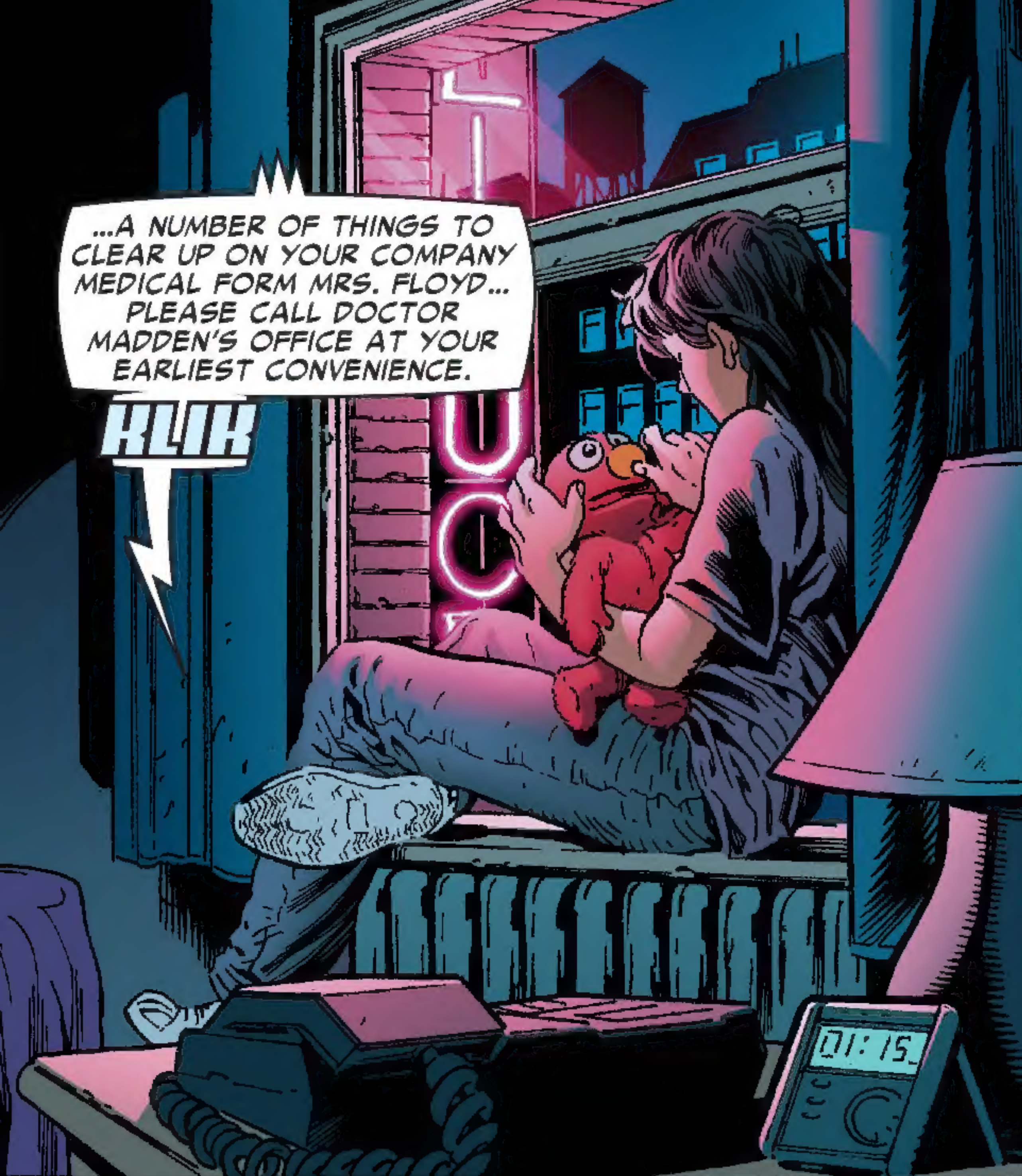


OUR CIRCULATION IS ABOUT THE SAME AS THAT OF A SEVENTY-YEAR-OLD WITH EMPHYSEMA. WE'RE CONSTANTLY FIGHTING LOW NUMBERS AND THE ONLINE THING IS CUTTING INTO US DAY BY DAY.

WE NEVER CIRCUMVENT THE TRUTH, BEN--YOU KNOW THAT. BUT PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING PIECES ARE OUR SECONDARY CONCERN RIGHT NOW.



YOUR PRIMARY JOB IS TO HELP US SELL NEWSPAPERS. HOW HARD IS THAT?





YOU STUPID IDIOT! YOU SCARED THE HELL OUT OF ME! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE PLAYING AT, COMING INTO SOMEONE'S HOUSE LIKE THAT? DON'T YOU PEOPLE KNOW HOW TO KNOCK?

WHAT, LIKE I SHOULD WAIT AROUND IN A HALLWAY? I'M KINDA HIGH-PROFILE RIGHT NOW, LADY!



JEEZ...OKAY, I GET IT. FINE. YOU'RE NOT IN THE MOOD--

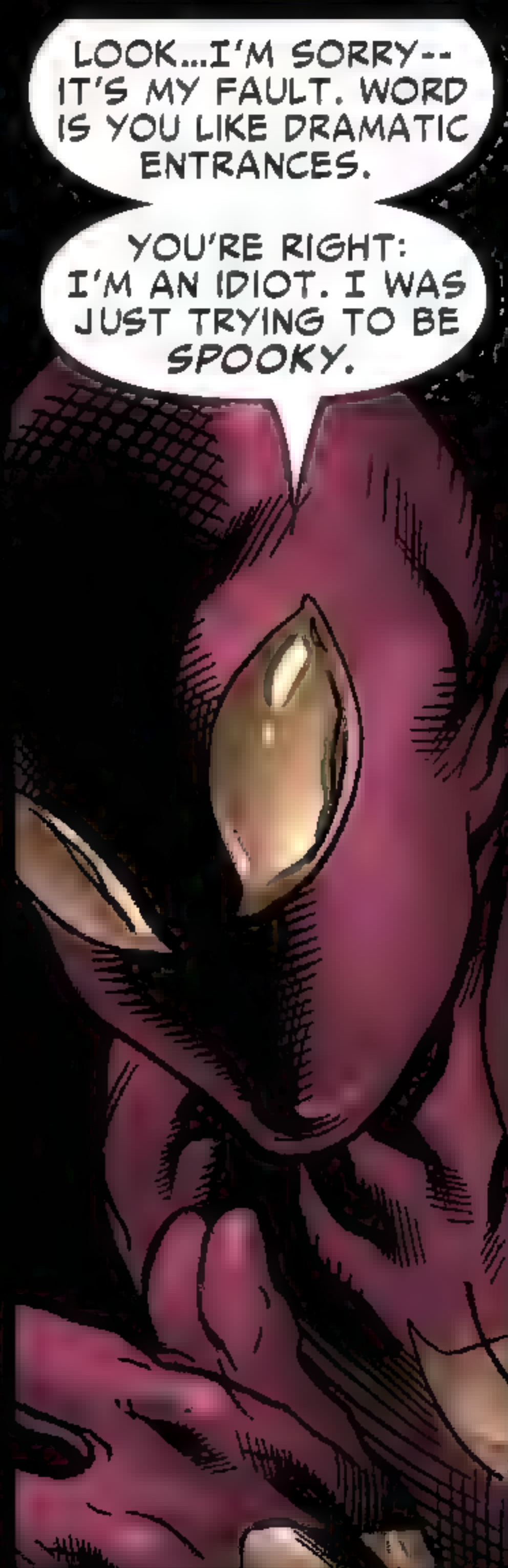
NO, WAIT!



OH, GOD...

...AH-HEHH...
#HUHH#...

...I'M SORRY, OKAY? THE COSTUME THREW ME. I'M KINDA EDGY RIGHT NOW AFTER THAT BUSINESS WITH THE GHOUL. YOU DO READ NEWSPAPERS, I TAKE IT?



LOOK...I'M SORRY-- IT'S MY FAULT. WORD IS YOU LIKE DRAMATIC ENTRANCES.

YOU'RE RIGHT: I'M AN IDIOT. I WAS JUST TRYING TO BE SPOOKY.



OKAY. I MEAN, REALLY-- I'M FINE. YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW LONG I'VE WAITED FOR A CHANCE TO TALK TO YOU, SPIDER-MAN.

YEAH, WELL... THE *OTHER* WORD IS, YOU'RE ONE OF ABOUT THREE JOURNALISTS WHO CAN BE TRUSTED IN THIS GAME TO TELL IT LIKE IT IS. I READ YOUR BIT ABOUT MARROW--THAT WAS PRETTY FAIR.



SO HERE IT IS: YOUR BIG CHANCE. ONE-TIME ONLY.

SPIDEY TELLS ALL.



AH, WHAT THE HECK...SOBRIETY CAN WAIT ANOTHER DAY. YOU WANT ONE?

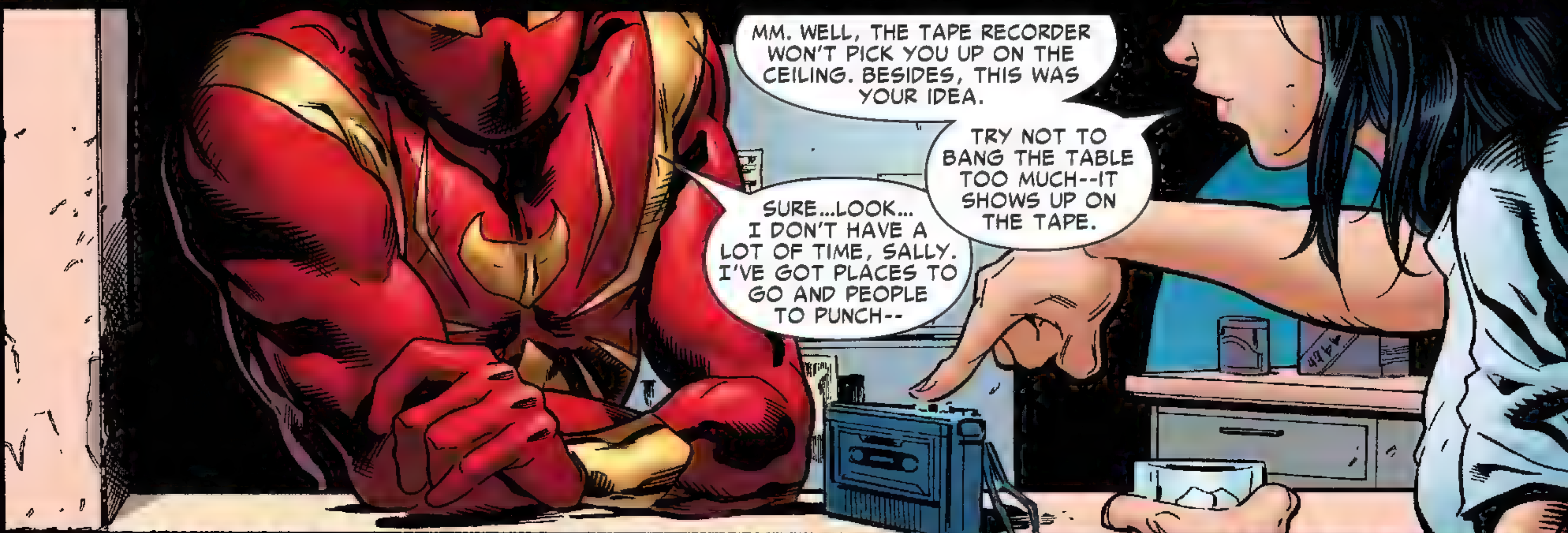
I DON'T DRINK. SOMEONE MIGHT TAG ME FOR SWINGING UNDER THE INFLUENCE.

NEVER STOPPED ME.



HUHH...HEHH...YOU LOOK KIND OF DORKY IN THAT CHAIR. IT'S CUTE.

I DON'T LIKE CHAIRS. WORST THING YOU CAN DO TO A HYPERACTIVE SPIDER.



MM. WELL, THE TAPE RECORDER WON'T PICK YOU UP ON THE CEILING. BESIDES, THIS WAS YOUR IDEA.

SURE...LOOK... I DON'T HAVE A LOT OF TIME, SALLY. I'VE GOT PLACES TO GO AND PEOPLE TO PUNCH--

TRY NOT TO BANG THE TABLE TOO MUCH--IT SHOWS UP ON THE TAPE.

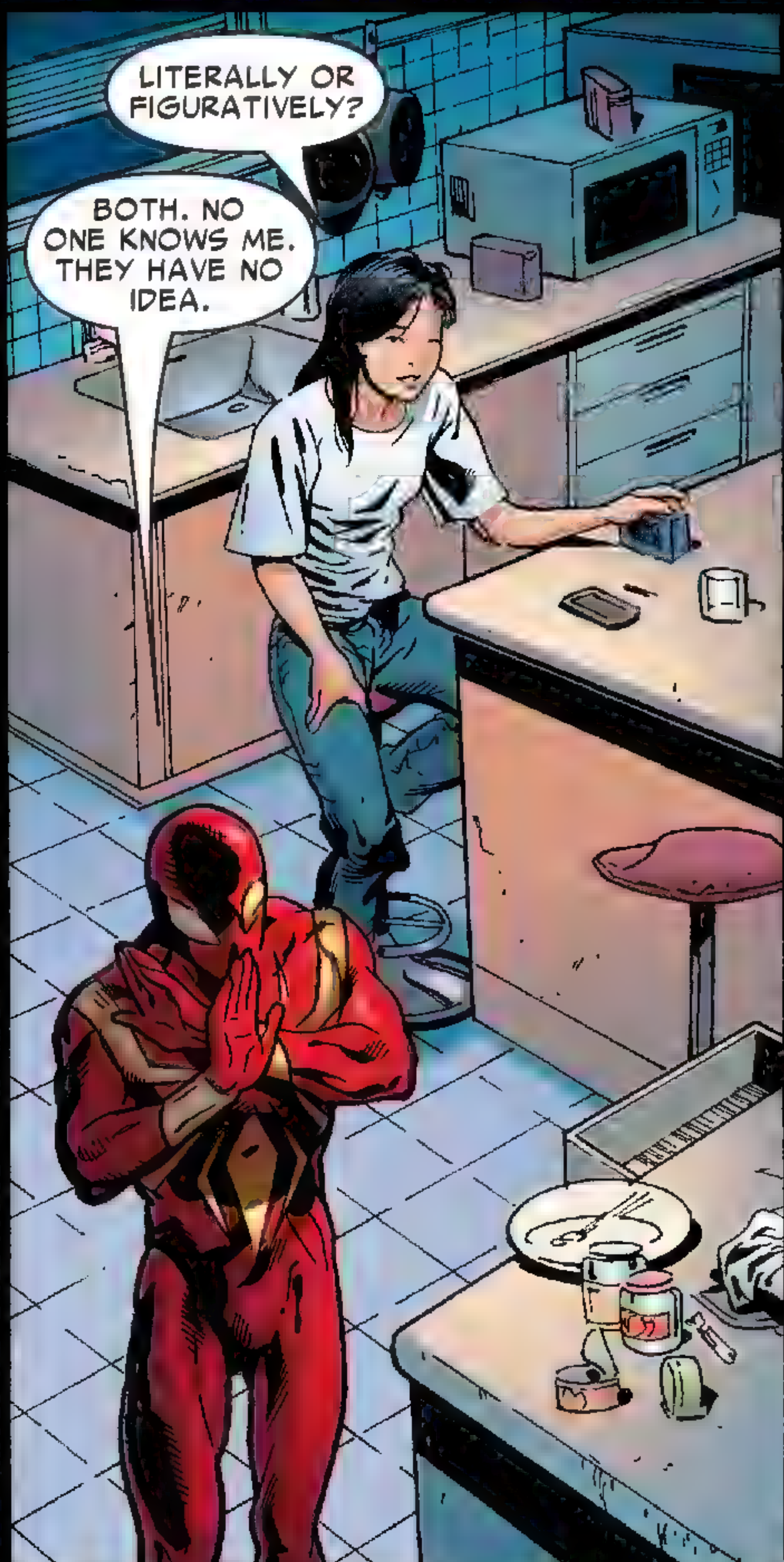


AND YET HERE YOU ARE, TAKING TIME OUT OF YOUR BUSY VIGILANTE SCHEDULE TO TALK WITH LITTLE OLD ME.

SO WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT YOU SUDDENLY WANT TO TELL THE WORLD?



I'VE NEVER TOLD THEM WHO I AM.



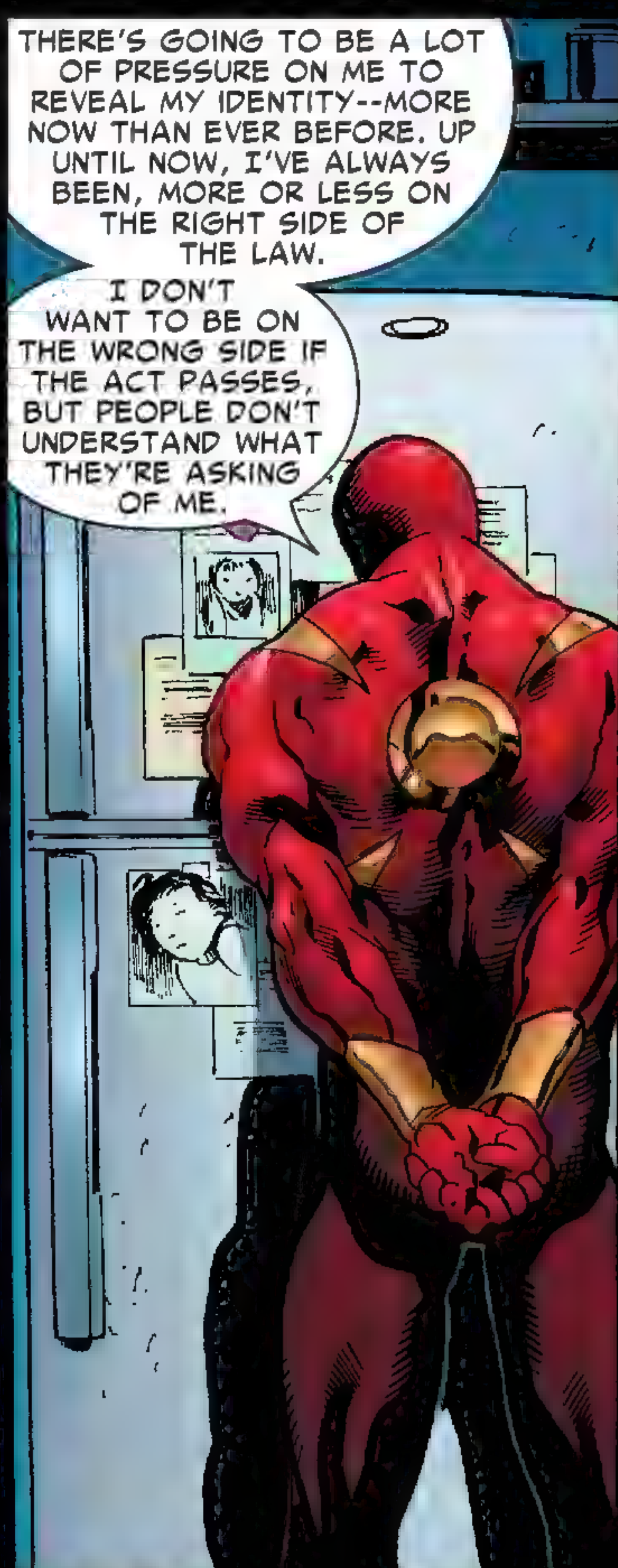
LITERALLY OR FIGURATIVELY?

BOTH. NO ONE KNOWS ME. THEY HAVE NO IDEA.



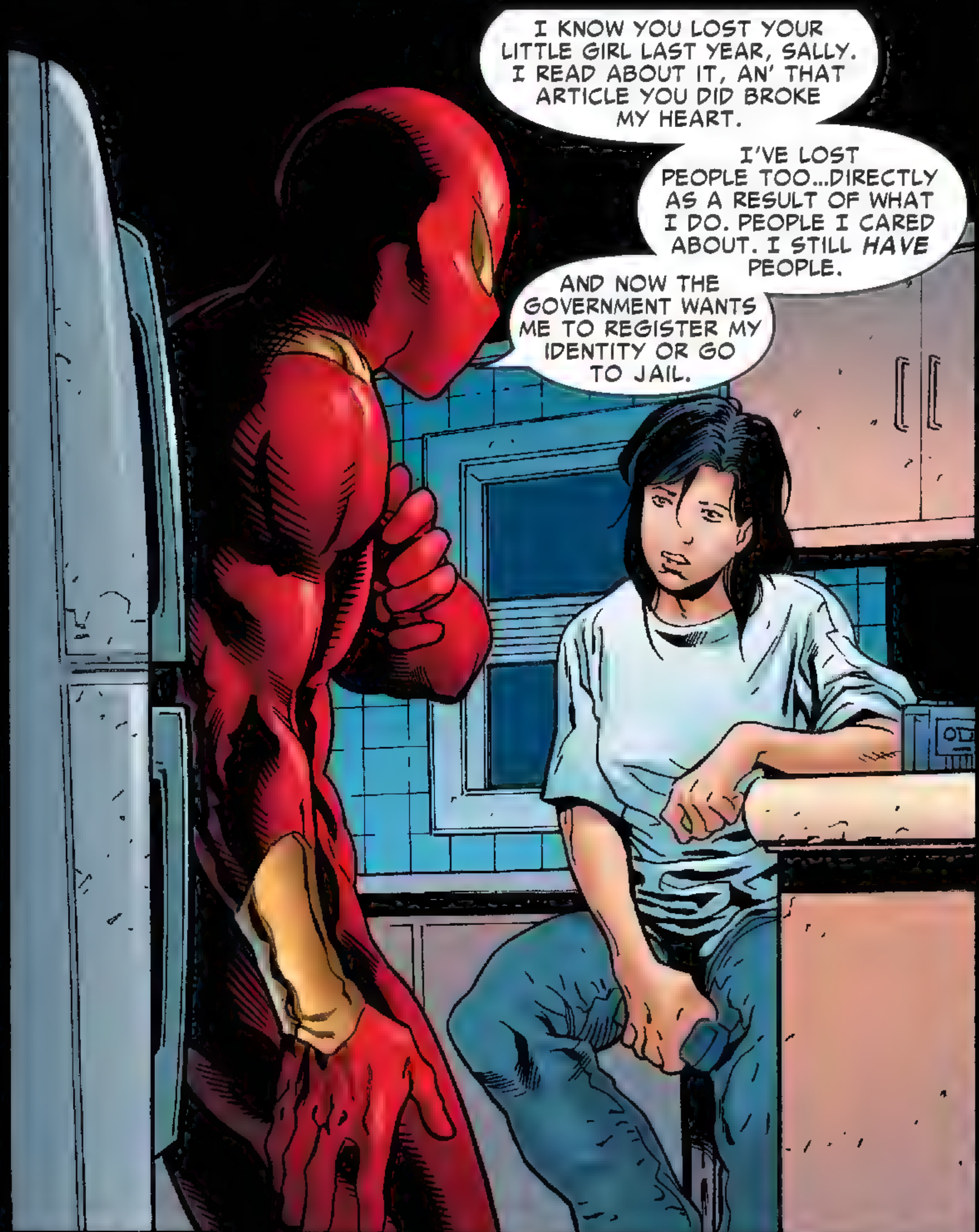
BEEN THINKING A LOT LATELY ABOUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF I DID... TELL PEOPLE, I MEAN.

SO FAR, I'VE MANAGED TO SKIRT AROUND THE LEGAL ASPECT OF WHAT I DO. I MEAN, YOU KNOW I'VE NEVER DONE HALF THE BAD THINGS CERTAIN PEOPLE GIVE ME CREDIT FOR.



THERE'S GOING TO BE A LOT OF PRESSURE ON ME TO REVEAL MY IDENTITY--MORE NOW THAN EVER BEFORE. UP UNTIL NOW, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN, MORE OR LESS ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE LAW.

I DON'T WANT TO BE ON THE WRONG SIDE IF THE ACT PASSES, BUT PEOPLE DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY'RE ASKING OF ME.



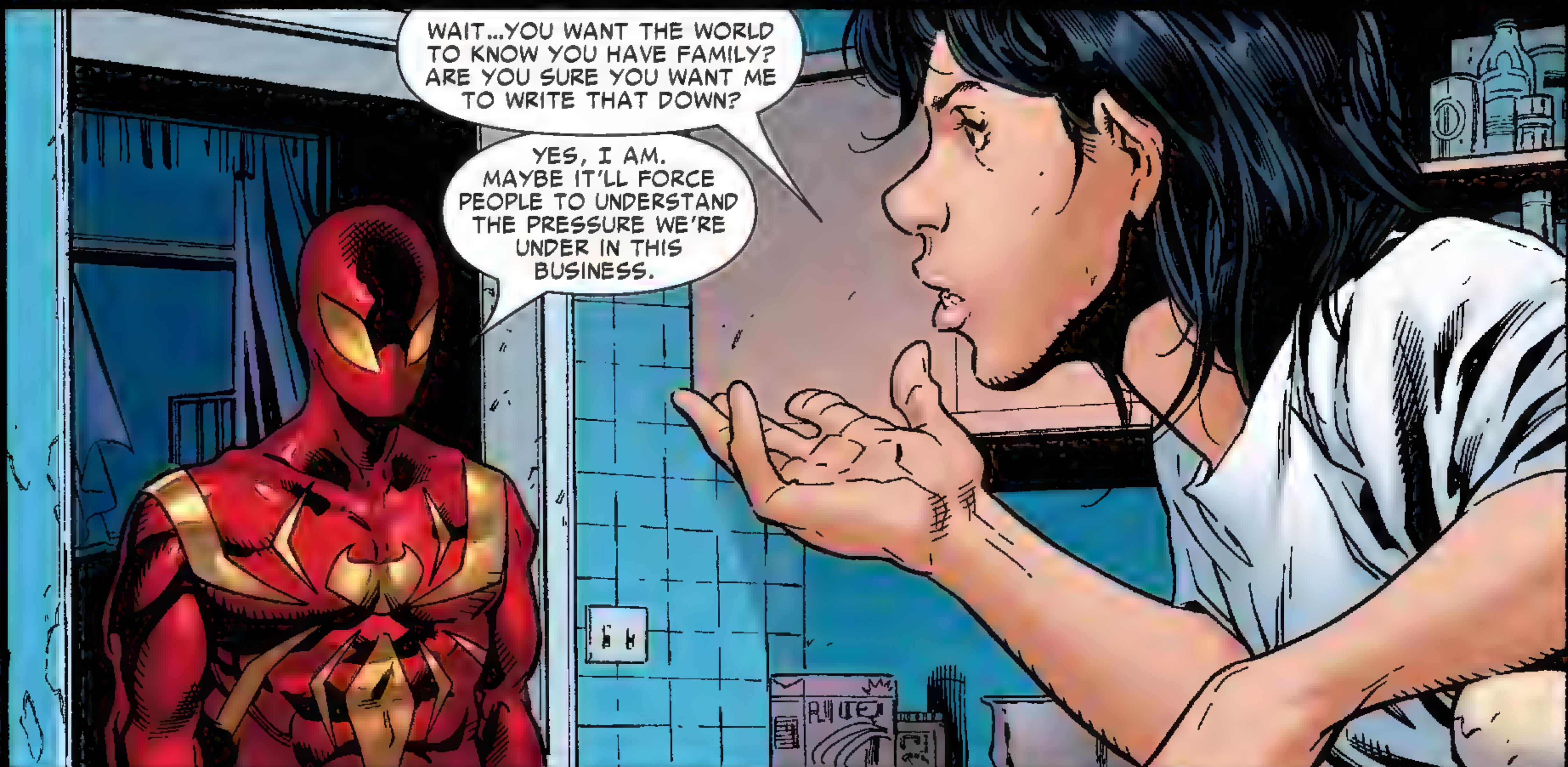
I KNOW YOU LOST YOUR LITTLE GIRL LAST YEAR, SALLY. I READ ABOUT IT, AN' THAT ARTICLE YOU DID BROKE MY HEART.

I'VE LOST PEOPLE TOO...DIRECTLY AS A RESULT OF WHAT I DO. PEOPLE I CARED ABOUT. I STILL HAVE PEOPLE.

AND NOW THE GOVERNMENT WANTS ME TO REGISTER MY IDENTITY OR GO TO JAIL.

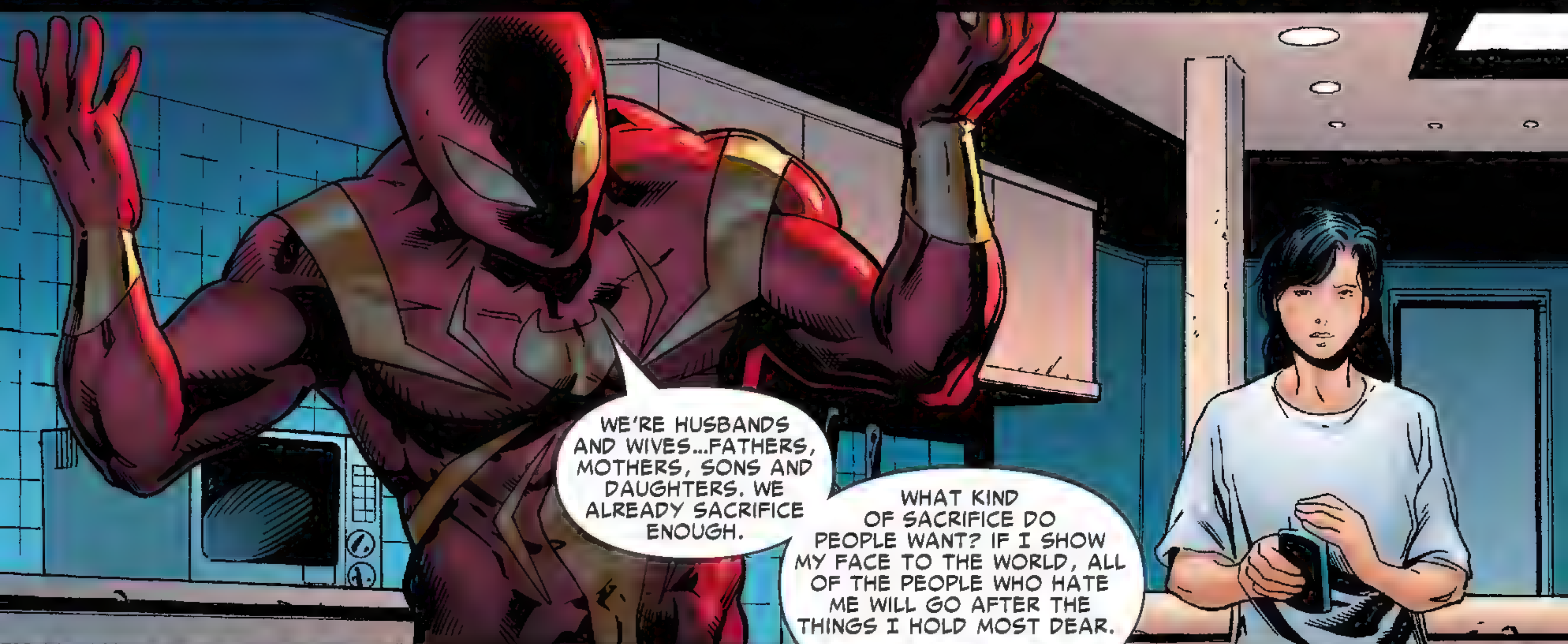


DIDN'T IT OCCUR TO ANYONE WHAT THIS WOULD DO TO MY FAMILY?



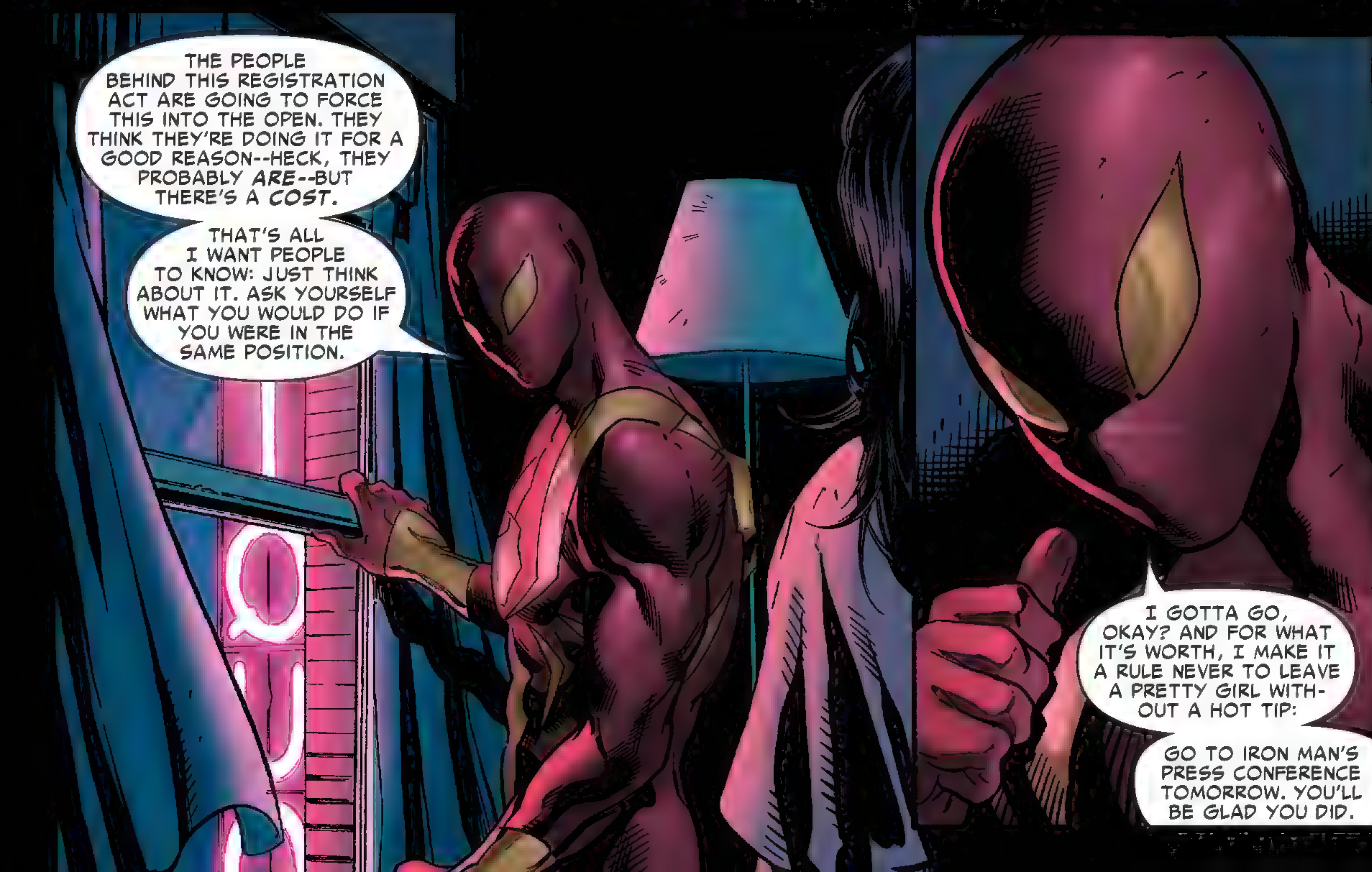
WAIT...YOU WANT THE WORLD TO KNOW YOU HAVE FAMILY? ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT ME TO WRITE THAT DOWN?

YES, I AM. MAYBE IT'LL FORCE PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND THE PRESSURE WE'RE UNDER IN THIS BUSINESS.



WE'RE HUSBANDS AND WIVES...FATHERS, MOTHERS, SONS AND DAUGHTERS. WE ALREADY SACRIFICE ENOUGH.

WHAT KIND OF SACRIFICE DO PEOPLE WANT? IF I SHOW MY FACE TO THE WORLD, ALL OF THE PEOPLE WHO HATE ME WILL GO AFTER THE THINGS I HOLD MOST DEAR.



THE PEOPLE BEHIND THIS REGISTRATION ACT ARE GOING TO FORCE THIS INTO THE OPEN. THEY THINK THEY'RE DOING IT FOR A GOOD REASON--HECK, THEY PROBABLY ARE--BUT THERE'S A COST.

THAT'S ALL I WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW: JUST THINK ABOUT IT. ASK YOURSELF WHAT YOU WOULD DO IF YOU WERE IN THE SAME POSITION.

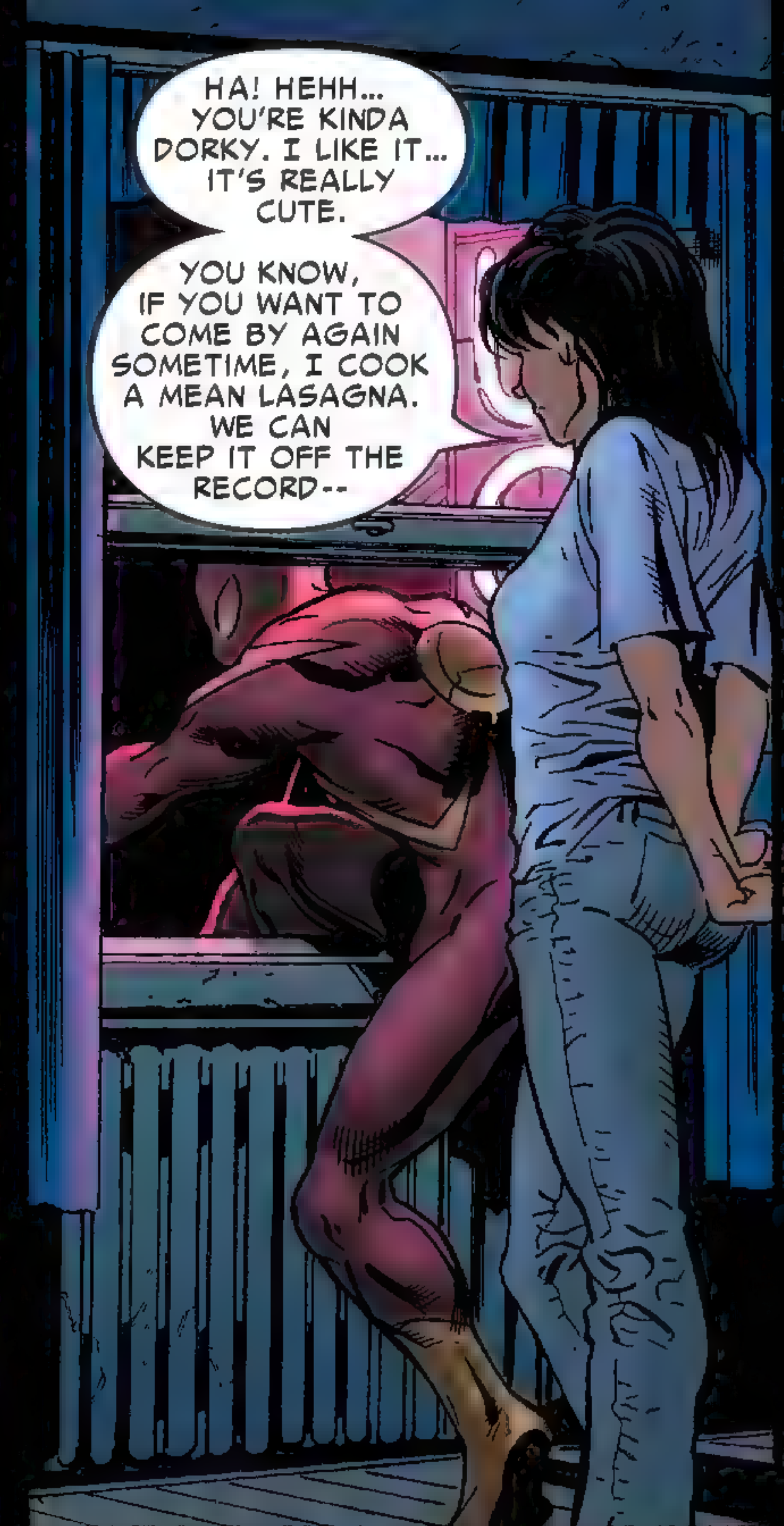
I GOTTA GO, OKAY? AND FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, I MAKE IT A RULE NEVER TO LEAVE A PRETTY GIRL WITHOUT A HOT TIP:

GO TO IRON MAN'S PRESS CONFERENCE TOMORROW. YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU DID.



IRON MAN,
HUH? IS THIS,
LIKE, INSIDER
TRADING?

SOMETHING
LIKE THAT. TRUST
ME: YOU'LL WANT
TO BE THERE FOR
THIS ONE.



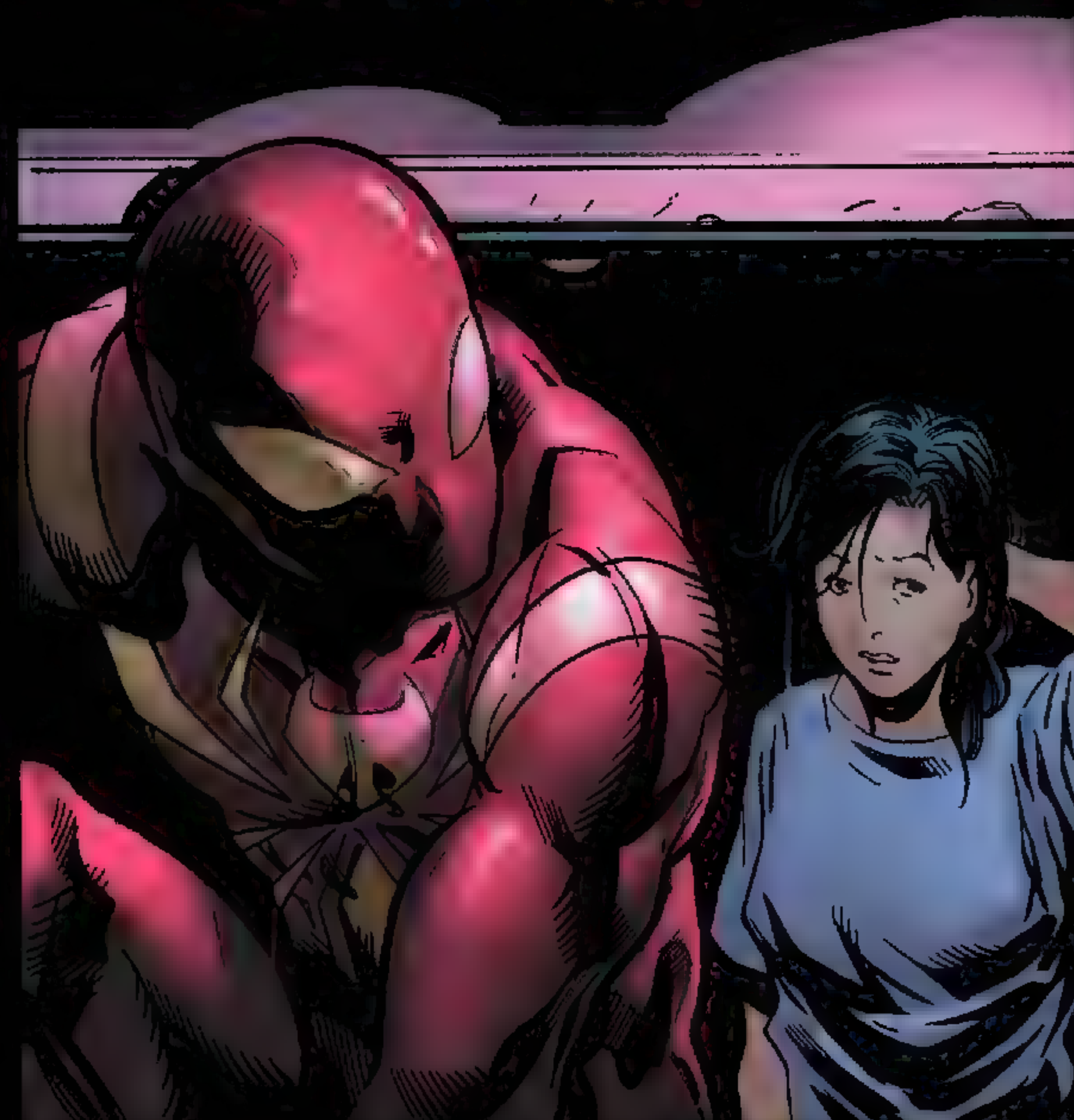
HA! HEHH...
YOU'RE KINDA
DORKY. I LIKE IT...
IT'S REALLY
CUTE.

YOU KNOW,
IF YOU WANT TO
COME BY AGAIN
SOMETIME, I COOK
A MEAN LASAGNA.
WE CAN
KEEP IT OFF THE
RECORD--

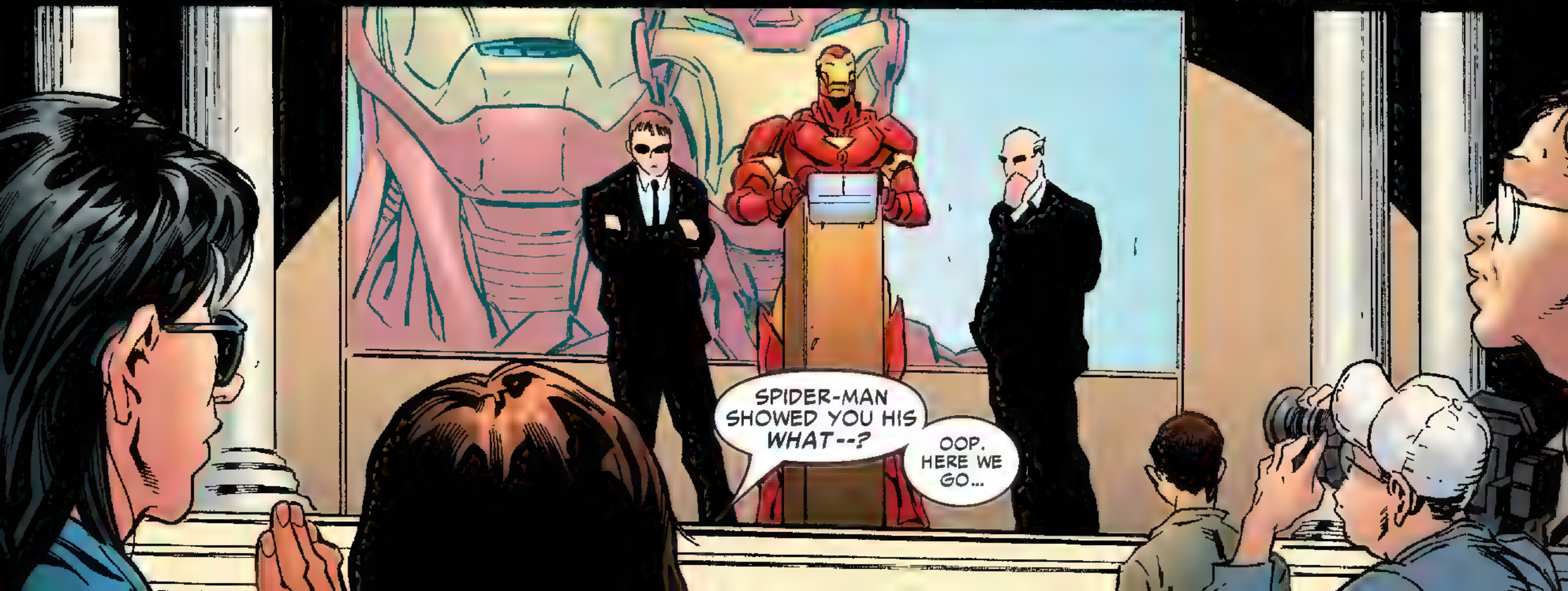


YEAH, UH...
THAT THING I
SAID ABOUT
FAMILY...

...ONE OF
THOSE PEOPLE
WOULD BE MY
WIFE.

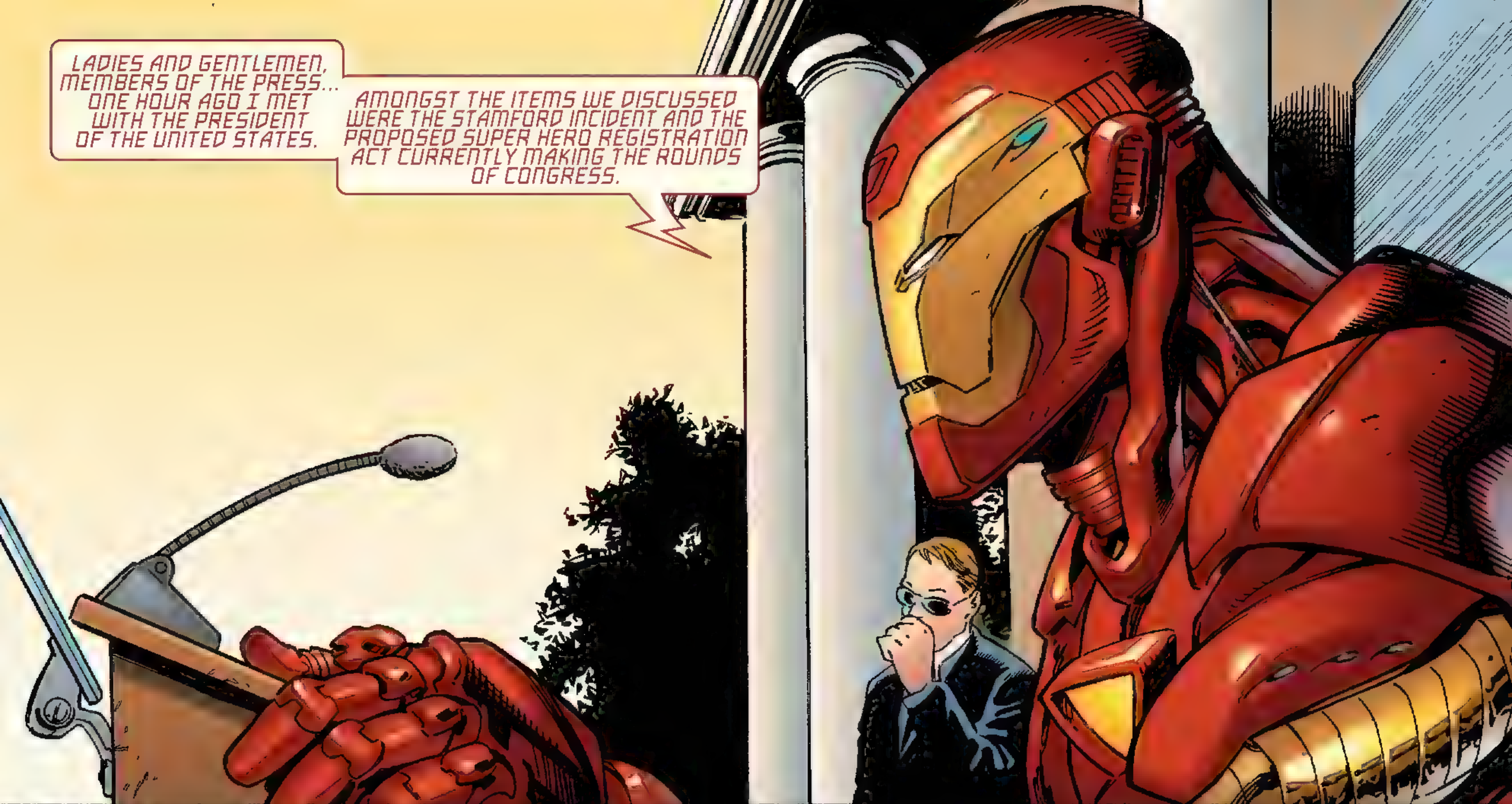


WELL...
THIS WAS
AWKWARD--

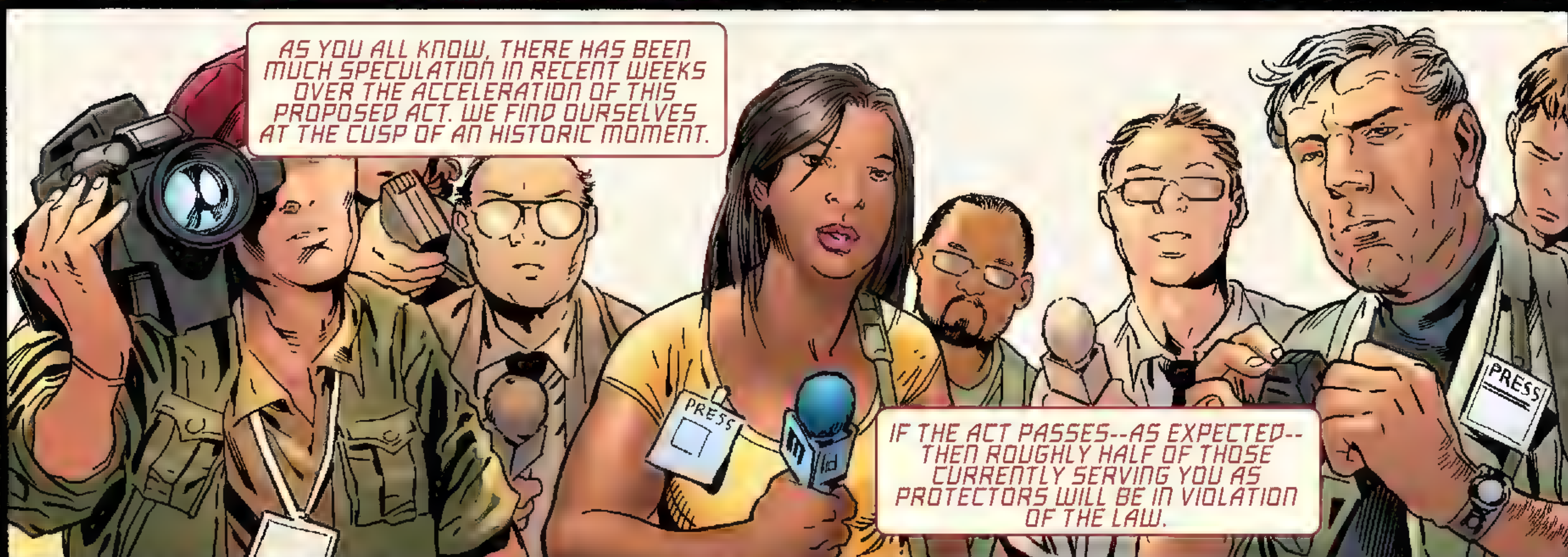


LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
MEMBERS OF THE PRESS...
ONE HOUR AGO I MET
WITH THE PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED STATES.

AMONGST THE ITEMS WE DISCUSSED
WERE THE STAMFORD INCIDENT AND THE
PROPOSED SUPER HERO REGISTRATION
ACT CURRENTLY MAKING THE ROUNDS
OF CONGRESS.



AS YOU ALL KNOW, THERE HAS BEEN
MUCH SPECULATION IN RECENT WEEKS
OVER THE ACCELERATION OF THIS
PROPOSED ACT. WE FIND OURSELVES
AT THE CUSP OF AN HISTORIC MOMENT.



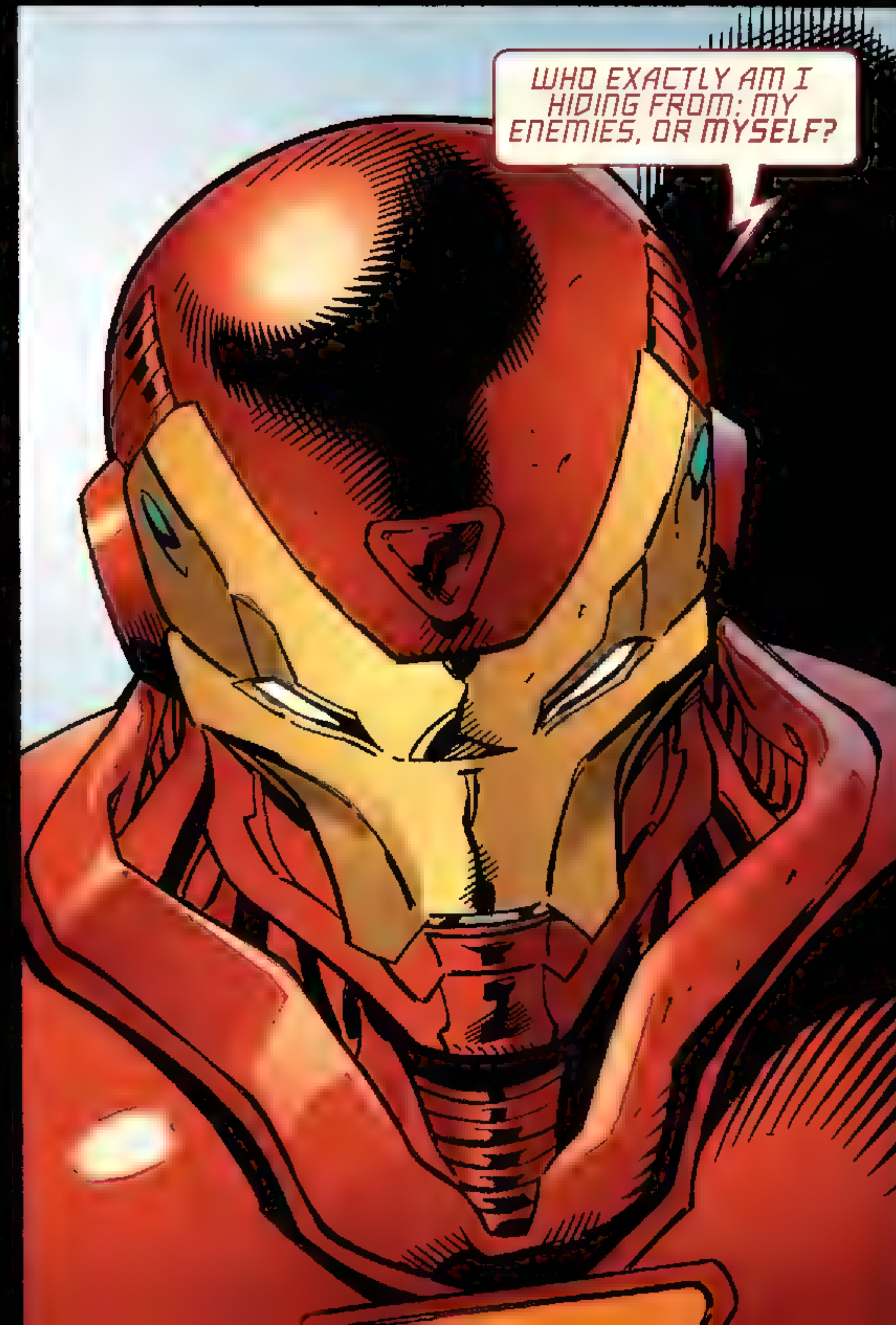
IF THE ACT PASSES--AS EXPECTED--
THEN ROUGHLY HALF OF THOSE
CURRENTLY SERVING YOU AS
PROTECTORS WILL BE IN VIOLATION
OF THE LAW.

OVER THE YEARS I HAVE ALWAYS
ENDEAVORED TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT
FOR THE CITIZENS OF THIS COUNTRY.
I HAVE ALWAYS--WITHOUT QUESTION
OR HESITATION--BEEN YOUR SERVANT.

BUT AS I INFORMED
THE PRESIDENT THIS
MORNING, THE
QUESTION OF THE
MASK I WEAR HAS
NAGGED AT MY
CONSCIENCE SINCE
THE DAY I PUT IT ON.



WHO EXACTLY AM I
HIDING FROM: MY
ENEMIES, OR MYSELF?





IN HIS SPEECH TO CONGRESS YESTERDAY, THE PRESIDENT SPOKE OF THE NEXT LOGICAL STEPS WE MUST TAKE TO ENSURE THE SECURITY OF ALL AMERICANS.

I HAVE MY OWN SERIES OF "STEPS" THAT I LONG AGO PROMISED MYSELF I WOULD TAKE.

PLEASE LOOK UP.

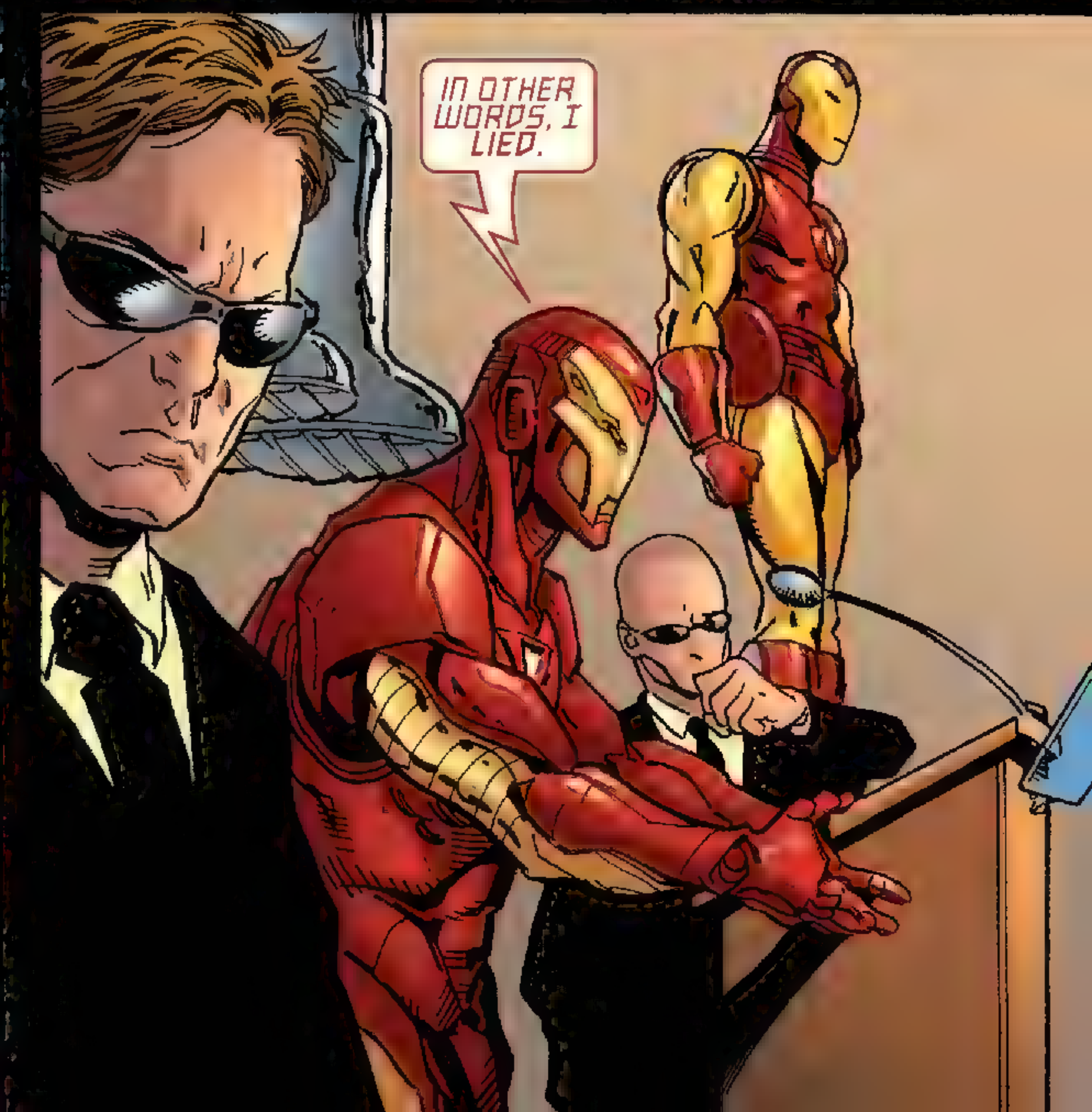


WOW.

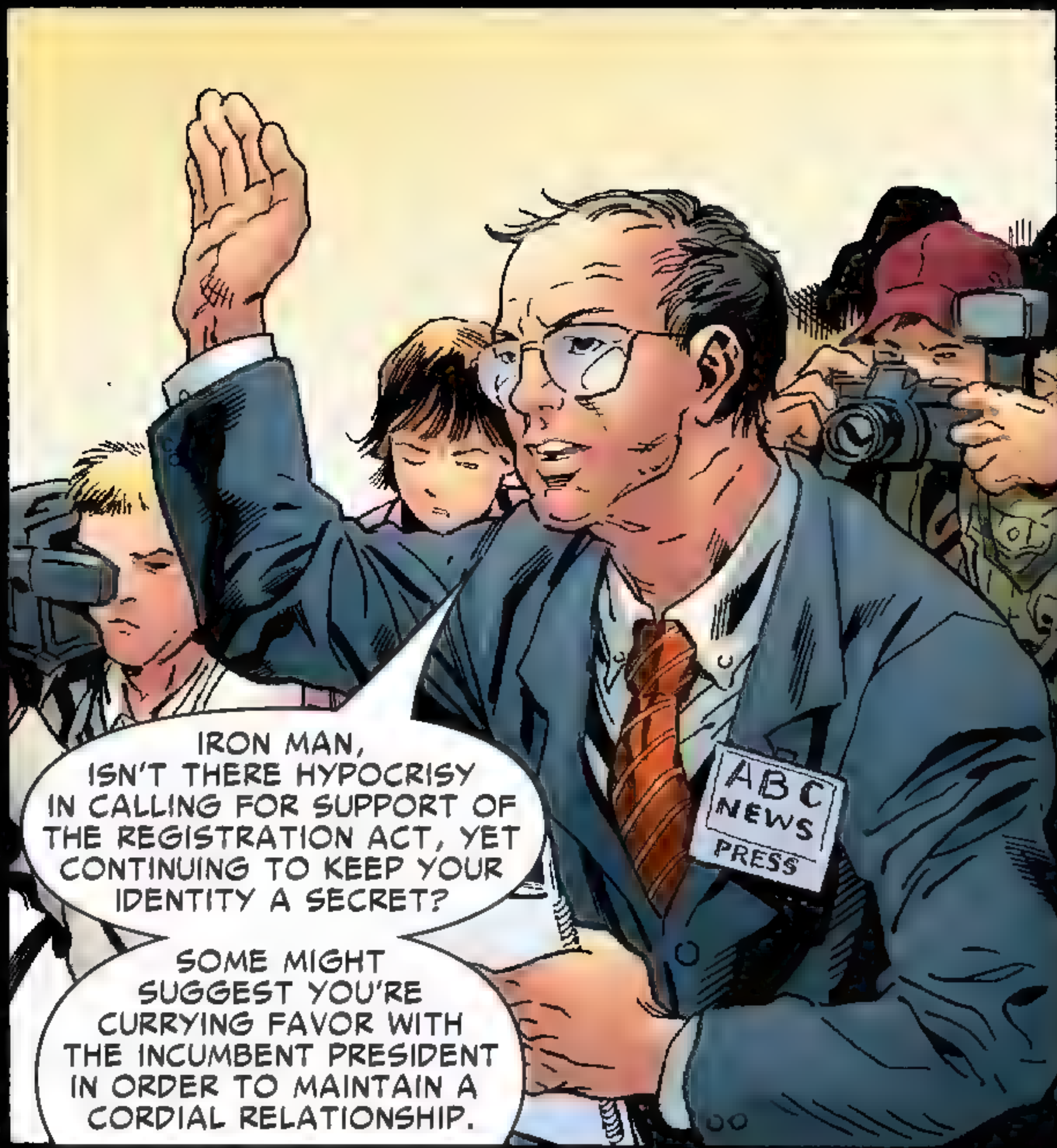


THESE ARE SOME OF THE MANY AUTOMATED SUITS I HAVE CONSTRUCTED OVER THE YEARS FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF PROTECTING MY IDENTITY.

I DID THIS IN ORDER TO PRETEND I COULD BE IN TWO PLACES AT ONCE.



IN OTHER WORDS, I LIED.



IRON MAN, ISN'T THERE HYPOCRISY IN CALLING FOR SUPPORT OF THE REGISTRATION ACT, YET CONTINUING TO KEEP YOUR IDENTITY A SECRET?

SOME MIGHT SUGGEST YOU'RE CURRYING FAVOR WITH THE INCUMBENT PRESIDENT IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN A CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP.



THE REGISTRATION ACT DOES NOT SPECIFICALLY CALL FOR PERSONS TO REVEAL THEIR IDENTITY PUBLICLY; MERELY TO REGISTER WITH AUTHORITIES FOR THE PURPOSES OF IDENTIFICATION.

BUT FOR MYSELF, IF I SUPPORT THE ACT, SOME WILL CALL ME A HYPOCRITE. SOME MIGHT SAY I CAN NEVER BE TRULY HONEST UNLESS I SHOW MY FACE TO THE WORLD.

AND THEY'D BE RIGHT.



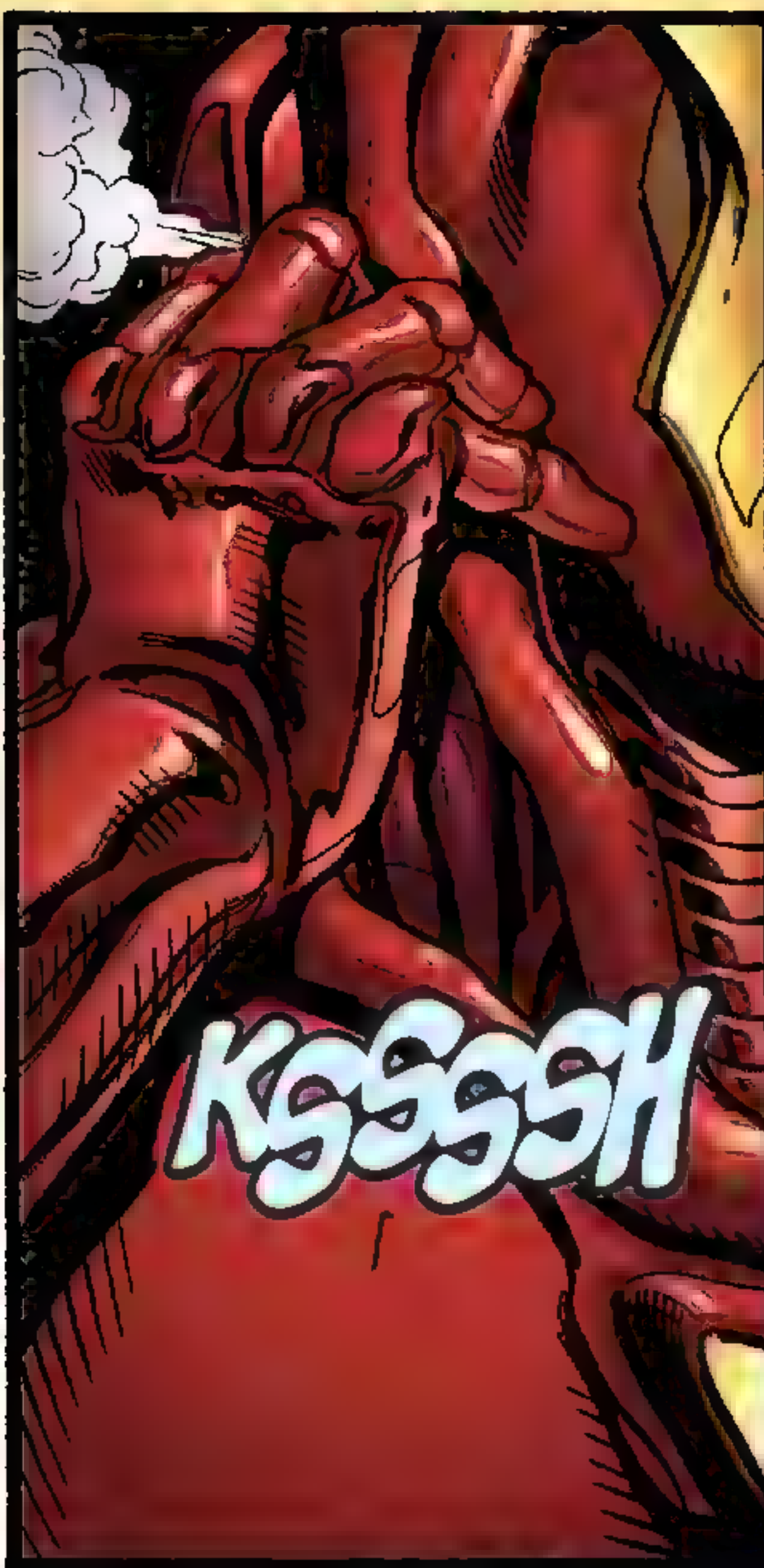
DID HE JUST SAY WHAT I THOUGHT HE SAID?



I'VE DONE THIS BEFORE, BUT ALWAYS WITH A CLEVER TAKE-BACK, A WAY OF ONCE MORE OBSCURING THE ISSUE.

BUT, TODAY I'M GOING TO COME CLEAN WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, AS I SHOULD HAVE DONE FROM DAY ONE.

I CAN THINK OF ONLY ONE WAY TO MAKE YOU ALL UNDERSTAND WHY.





EMBEDDED

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ONE

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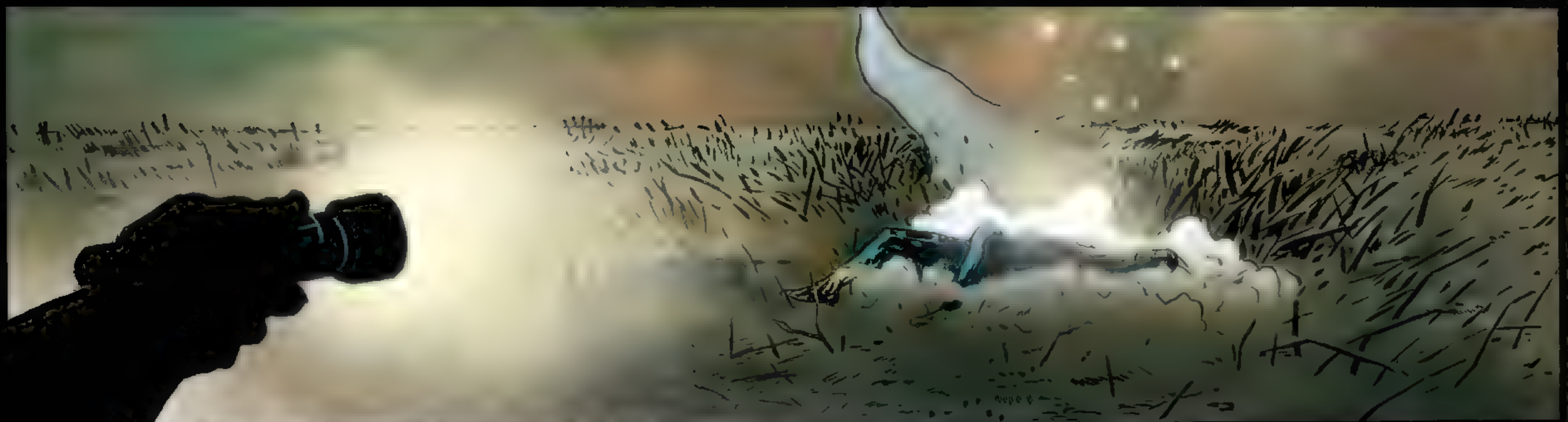
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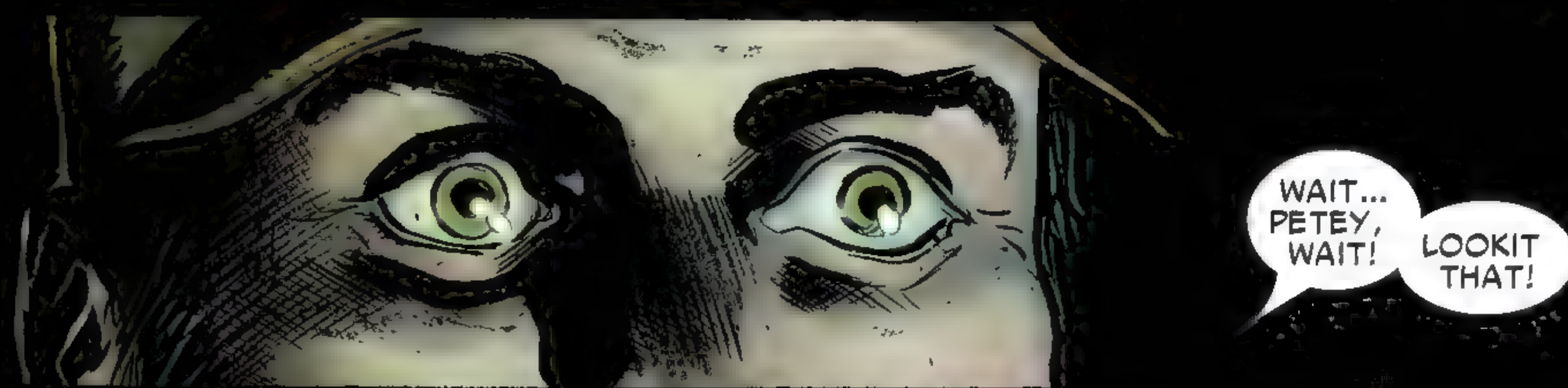
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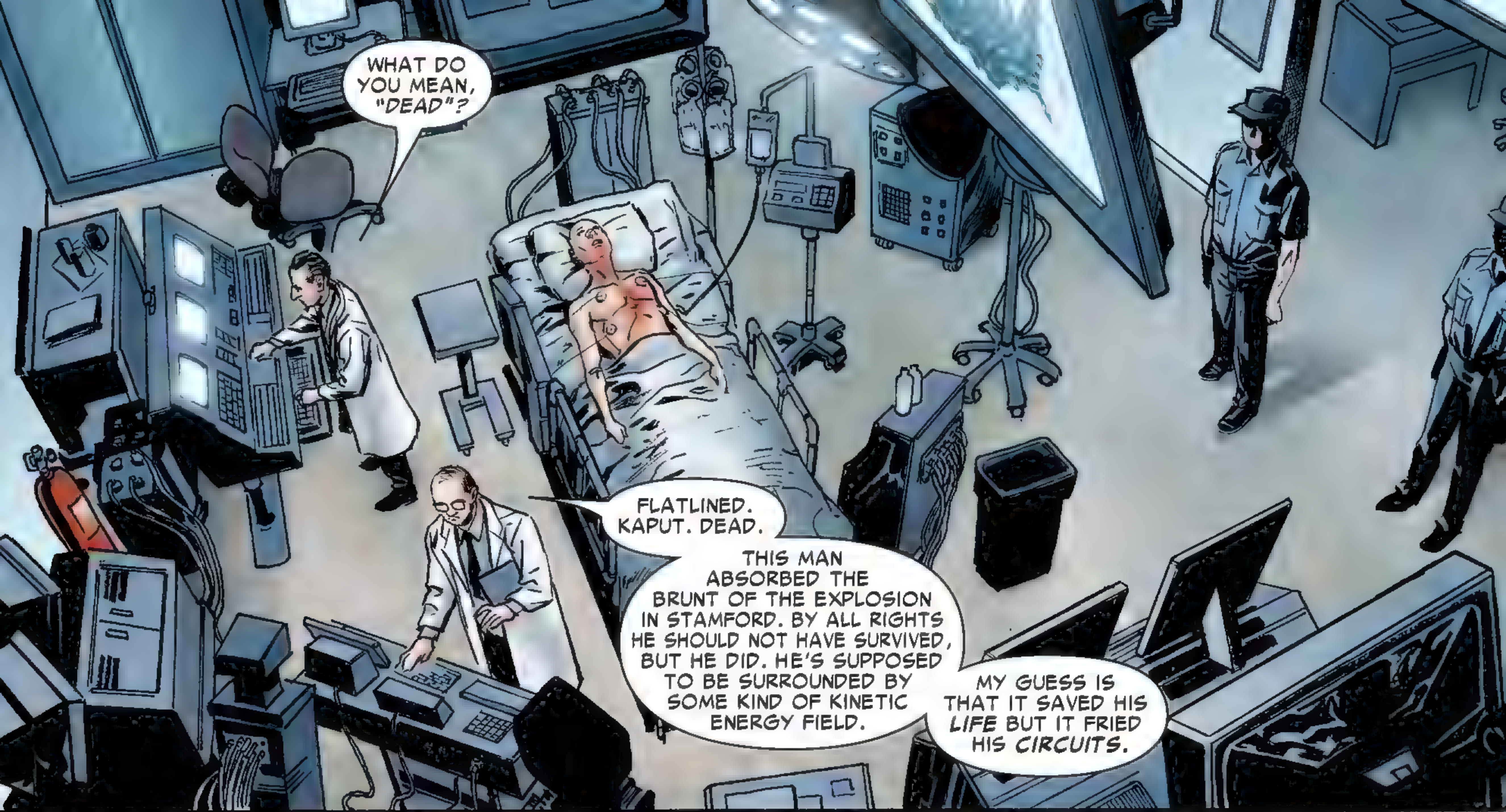
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WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "DEAD"?

FLATLINED. KAPUT. DEAD.

THIS MAN ABSORBED THE BRUNT OF THE EXPLOSION IN STAMFORD. BY ALL RIGHTS HE SHOULD NOT HAVE SURVIVED, BUT HE DID. HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE SURROUNDED BY SOME KIND OF KINETIC ENERGY FIELD.

MY GUESS IS THAT IT SAVED HIS LIFE BUT IT FRIED HIS CIRCUITS.

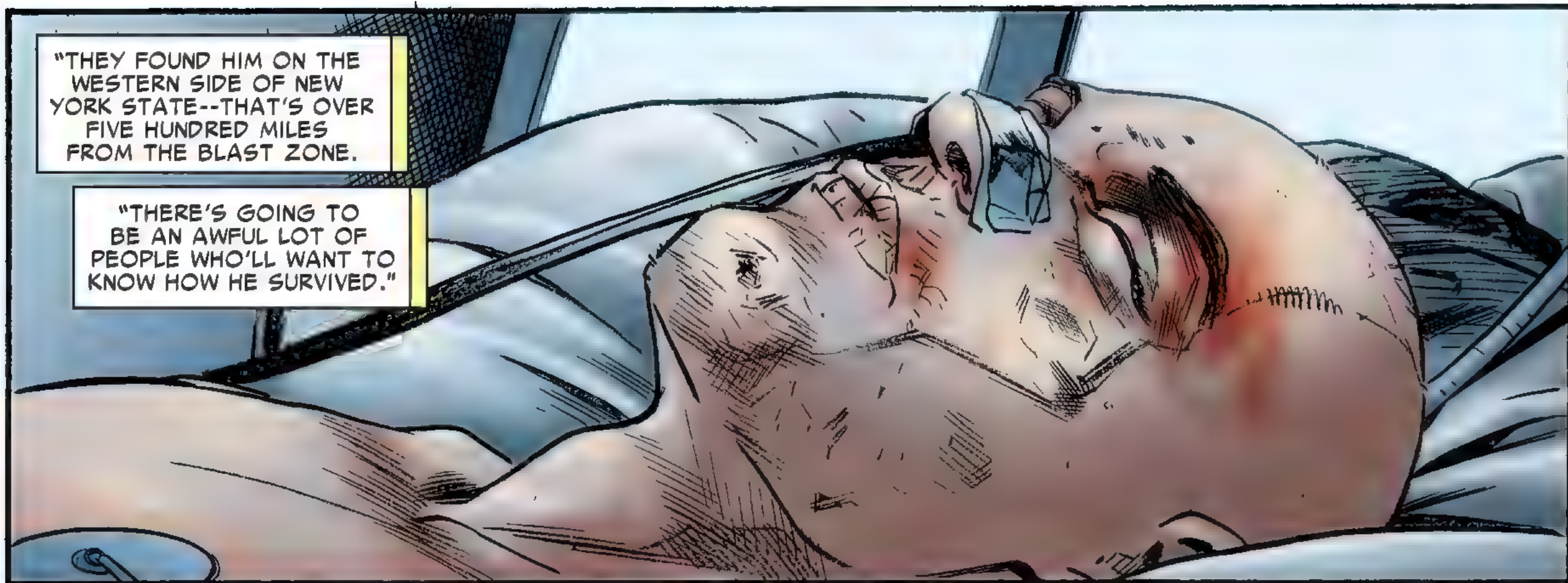


SO YEAH...HIS POWERS ARE COMPLETELY DEAD. NO KINETIC ENERGY FIELD, NOTHING.

DID WE RECHECK?

I CHECKED.

THEN CHECK AGAIN.



"THEY FOUND HIM ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF NEW YORK STATE--THAT'S OVER FIVE HUNDRED MILES FROM THE BLAST ZONE.

"THERE'S GOING TO BE AN AWFUL LOT OF PEOPLE WHO'LL WANT TO KNOW HOW HE SURVIVED."



"THAT DEPENDS ON WHOSE VERSION YOU BELIEVE..."

"...AND AT THE MOMENT, OUR PATIENT IS IN NO CONDITION TO SAY..."



OKAY, HOW MANY SUPER-VILLAINS ARE WE TALKING HERE, SPEEDBALL?

THREE. NO WAIT. I THINK I SEE COLDHEART IN THE BACKYARD EMPTYING THE TRASH...



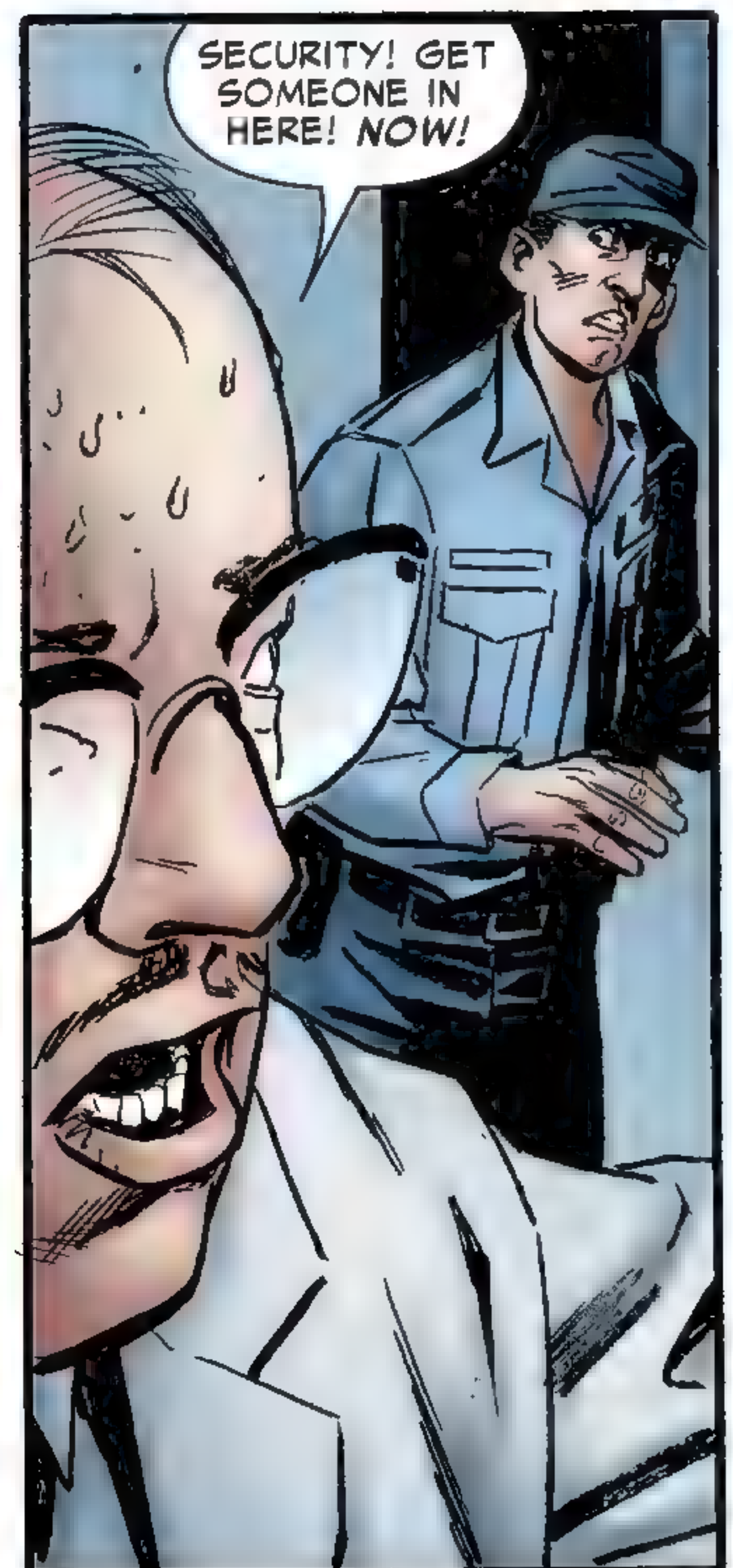
...WE'VE BEEN MARKED!

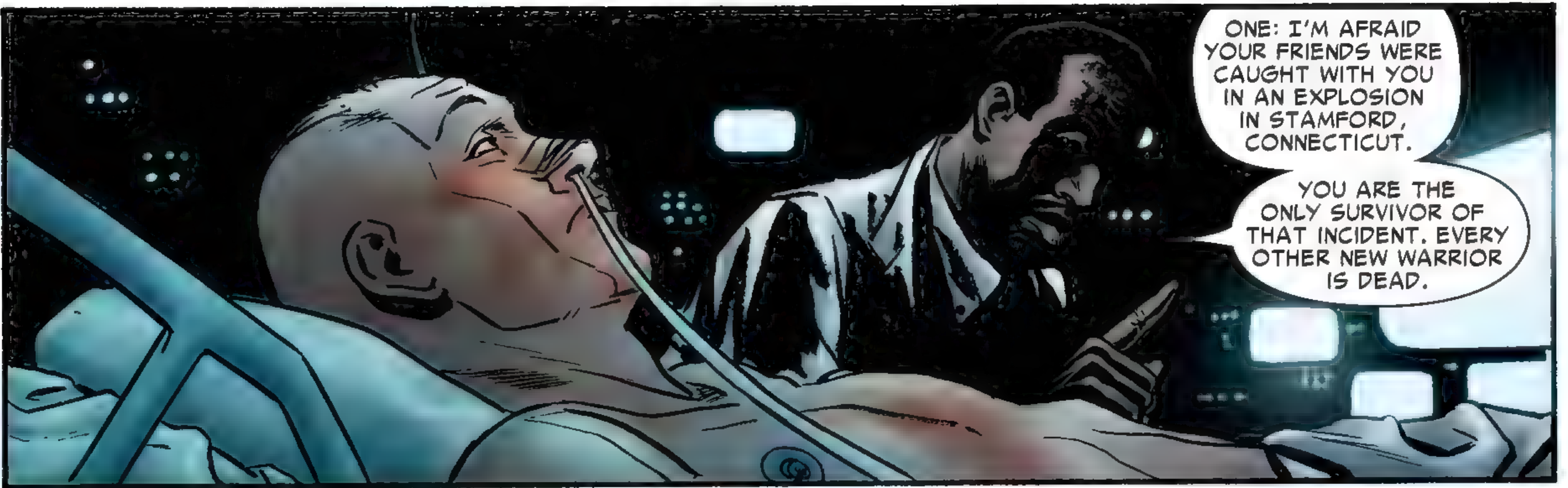
I'D HEARD THAT THE CLOTHES MAKE THE MAN, SPEEDFREAK...

ON YOUR FEET, NITRO. AND DON'T TRY ANY OF YOUR STUPID EXPLOSIONS...

NAMORITA, RIGHT? WELL, I'M AFRAID WE'RE NOT THE BARGAIN BASEMENT LOSERS YOU GUYS ARE USED TO, BABY.









TO BE
CONTINUED

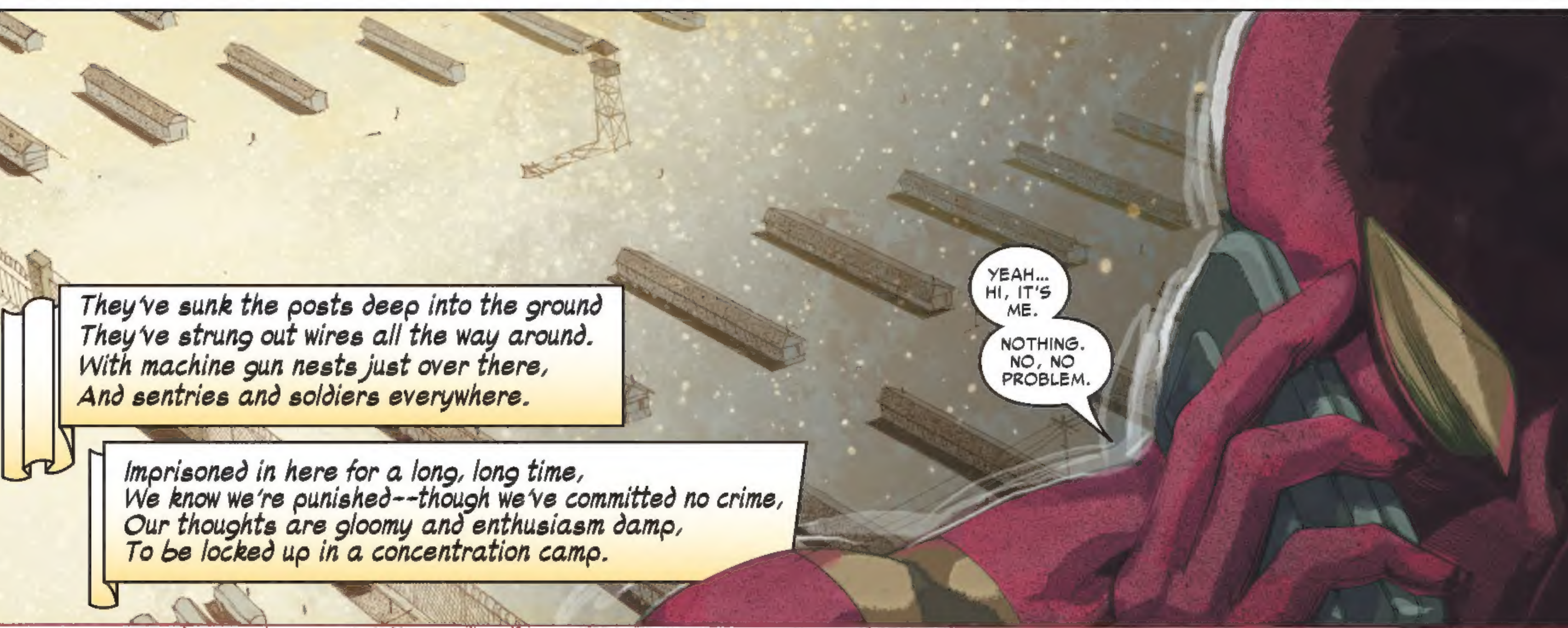
In 1942, concerned by a possible invasion of the West Coast, the President of the United States signed Executive Order 9066, precipitating one of the largest controlled migrations in history. Over 110,000 people of Japanese descent were moved from their homes near the Pacific Coast into 10 wartime communities under the jurisdiction of the Wartime Relocation Authority.

Most of these people were American Citizens of Japanese ancestry with little or no allegiance to the Japanese Emperor. Over half were children. They were forced to leave behind over two hundred million dollars' worth of real estate and possessions, though a later law permitted some of these people to renounce their citizenship and return to their former homes.

In the interests of fairness, it can be noted that while they provided very sparse accommodation, these relocation centers had the highest live-birth rate and the lowest death rate in wartime United States. The Japanese in the centers received free food, lodging, medical and dental care, clothing allowance, education, hospital care, and all basic necessities. The government even paid travel expenses and assisted in cases of emergency relief.

The following poem--written anonymously--was circulated at Poston War Relocation Camp during the summer of 1943.

PAUL JENKINS WRITER KEI KOBAYASHI ARTIST CHRISTINA STRAIN COLORIST VC'S RANDY GENTILE LETTERER CORY SEDLMEIER EDITOR TOM BREVOORT EXECUTIVE EDITOR JOE QUESADA EDITOR IN CHIEF DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER



*Loyalty we know, and patriotism we feel,
To sacrifice our utmost was our ideal,
To fight for our country, and die, perhaps;
But we're here because we happen to be Japs.*

DADDY...
WHEN CAN
WE GO
HOME?

THIS IS
OUR HOME,
KIMIKO.



I DON'T
LIKE IT
HERE.

HUSH NOW,
DARLING.
YOU'LL FRIGHTEN
MOMMY.



*We all love life, and our country best,
Our misfortune to be here in the West,
To keep us penned behind that damned fence,
is someone's notion of national defense.*

